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MEMOIRS
OF
Tranſactions at SEA
DURING THE
WAR with *FRANCE*;
Beginning in 1688,
AND
Ending in 1697.

Moſt humbly Dedicated to

His Royal Highneſs Prince GEORGE of DENMARK, Lord High Admiral of *England* and *Ireland*, and of all Her Majeſty's Plantations, and Generaliſſimo of all Her Majeſty's Forces, *&c.*

BY

JOSIAH BURCHETT Eſq;
Secretary to the *Admiralty.*

LONDON:
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22^{d} *Apr.* 1703.

May it pleaſe Your
ROYAL HIGHNESS,

HAving employed moſt of thoſe few Hours which I could borrow from Publick Buſineſs, on the following Account of *Tranſactions at Sea, during the laſt*

War with France, I do, with all Humility, preſume to put it into the World under the Protection of Your ROYAL HIGHNESS, who has, at this time of equal Action, the Management of that no leſs difficult than important Affair of the *Royal Navy* of this Kingdom.

I am not without Hopes, Royal SIR, that (according to Your known Goodneſs) You will be pleas'd to Accept this ſmall Offering, from one who has not only the Honour to be Employ'd in Your Service, but of having already received Marks of Your Princely Favour: Not but that I am truly ſenſible, a Grace, like this, will infinitely too much Re-

ward

ward me, for the Pains I have taken to Preſerve to This, and Future Ages, what otherwiſe might, in little time, have eſcaped the Memory, even of thoſe who were principally concerned.

I ſhould not have undertaken a Work of this Nature, had there been any Proſpect of It's being Communicated by a more able Pen; but finding no Steps made towards it, and I having not only been Perſonally in great part of the Tranſactions which are here Treated of, but the Station wherein I have many Years ſerv'd, enabling me to Inſpect the Neceſſary Papers and Records, I do, for thoſe Reaſons, humbly hope that I may, in

ſome meaſure, be Excuſed for my Preſumption.

That Your Highneſs may Enjoy a Long and Happy Life, with Her Majeſty, Your Royal Conſort, is the hearty Prayers of

(*May it pleaſe Your*
ROYAL HIGHNESS)

Your Highneſs's moſt Dutiful,
and moſt Obedient Servant,

J. Burchett.

TO THE READER.

WHEN I undertook the following Work, it was not with Deſign to make it Publick, but rather to Refreſh my own Memory, when any thing contain'd therein might have eſcaped it's Reach; but being earneſtly preſs'd by ſome Friends to permit It's appearing Abroad, I did, at laſt, comply, tho' not without ſome Unwillingneſs, being but too ſenſible, that it ought to have come forth in a more advantageous Dreſs, and that if I had more Time to beſtow on it, I yet wanted a Capacity to render it ſo acceptable as I could wiſh. However, if, as it is, it does fortunately give ſome Satisfaction, I ſhall (ſince I have ſet no other Mark in view) think thoſe Hours very well employ'd, which I borrowed, even from what were abſolutely neceſſary for Reſt.

It muſt not be expected that the following Sheets are a Compleat Hiſtory of the Naval-

To the Reader.

War with France, *with all it's various Circumſtances, as well of State as otherwiſe; but rather what it was really intended*, An Account, ſomewhat in the Nature of a Journal, of Remarkable Tranſactions at Sea, during that no leſs Great than Long War; *and to render the Whole the more intelligible, I have taken care to ſet down every Service entire by it ſelf.*

I believe our Anceſtors did not conceive that France *would ever have arrived to ſuch a degree of Strength at Sea, as to be able to enter the Liſts with* England, *and the* United Provinces; *for as it appears by the Annals of former Times, that that Nation had no great Reaſon to Value it ſelf in this Particular, ſo looking no farther back than the Reign of Queen* Elizabeth, *it will be found that the Naval Force of* France *was very inconſiderable, compared with what Our's then was; and that, even then, they did not ſo much as lay the Foundation of a Ship of War, without giving Her Majeſty a Satisfactory Reaſon for their ſo doing.*

True it is, that our Royal Navy was in thoſe Times very ſmall, compared with what it now is, as indeed it was even at the Reſtauration of King Charles *the Second; but ſome time after that it began to ſwell, (particularly by the Parliament's giving Money*

Money at once to build 30 Capital Ships) and ſo it has, by degrees, come to it's preſent Bulk.

When we began to encreaſe our Force, the French, *and the* Dutch *too, thought it neceſſary to augment their's; and as the Applications of the former were indeed very Extraordinary, ſo poſſibly were the Helps they met with therein not Inconſiderable.*

The preſent Magnitude of our Navy does conſtantly furniſh (eſpecially in time of Action) not only ſo much, but ſuch Variety of Buſineſs, that it is almoſt next to an Impoſſibility for any one Man, even in the Courſe of a long Life, to make himſelf Maſter of it; and therefore it is divided into many Branches or Offices, all ſubſervient to the Lord High Admiral of England, *and next, and immediately under him, the Principal Officers and Commiſſioners of the Navy, who have in a more particular manner the Care of the Yards, Building and Repairing of Ships, Contracting for Naval Stores, Payment of the aforeſaid Yards and Ships, &c.*

That the Reader may know what great Fleets this Nation was obliged, or at leaſt did think neceſſary, to ſet forth almoſt every Year during the laſt War, I have hereafter inſerted not only the ſeveral Rates of the Ships, but alſo the Number of each Rate, Viz.

Rate.

Rate.	Number.
1	6
2	8
3	36
4	51
5	37
6	22
Fireſhips	19
	179

And this even excluſive of Hoſpital Ships, Yachts, Sloops, Bomb-Veſſels, Storeſhips, Brigantines, and all other ſmall, but neceſſary, Imbarcations for the Conveniency and Service of a Grand Fleet.

But I would not have it underſtood, that all theſe Ships and Veſſels were, at any time, employed in a Body. No; many of them were on Services abroad; others as Convoys to particular Trades; while no ſmall Number of the leſſer ſort were made uſe of as Cruizers to and fro in the Chanel, and elſewhere, to ſecure our Merchant Ships and Veſſels from the Enemy's ſmall Frigats, and Privateers, with which (eſpecially the latter) they made it their Buſineſs to infeſt our Coaſts.

The greateſt Number of Ships and Veſſels in Pay in one Year, (excluſive of Tenders) during the whole Time of the laſt War,

War was 229; *and, according to their reſpective Complements of Men, they required about* 45900, *and had mounted in them* 8396 *Guns, of which Number* 6360 *were on board Ships from the Firſt to the Fourth Rate, incluſive; but then it muſt be underſtood, that thoſe employed in the* West Indies *are reckoned to the middle Number of Men and Guns allowed them, otherwiſe both the one and the other would have amounted to conſiderably more than it's now calculated at. As for the Body of the* Engliſh *Fleet, it ſeldom or never exceeded* 52 *Ships of the Firſt, Second, Third, and Fourth Rates, (and of the latter there was ſeldom many) which with the* Dutch *Quota, commonly about* 5 *to* 8, *made upwards of* 80 *proper for the Line of Battel.*

But altho' the whole Number of Men were, or ought to have been employed, at leaſt in the Summer Months, yet did it often fall ſhort; for as they were in the Winter Seaſon very conſiderably reduced, by the laying up moſt of the Firſt and Second Rates, ſo by the Fleet's not being ſo well Mann'd, as to be in a Condition to go to Sea before the latter end of April, *or the beginning of* May, *it cannot be reckoned that the whole Number of Men in Sea-Pay, one Month with another, did ever exceed* 40000 *the Year round, if it ſwell'd ſo high.*

To the Reader.

It is well known, that France *had in a Body one Year the laſt War, if not two, upwards of* 80 *Ships of the Line of Battel: And it was as obvious, that all which* England *and* Holland *could, or at leaſt did do, was timely to ſet forth a Strength (with regard to many other Services that called for Shipping) very little, if any thing, ſuperior to them; but then it muſt be obſerved, that the great Number of Men which our Trade (not much leſs than in actual Peace) required, was no little Hindrance to the Manning the Navy, ſo as to enable It to be early at Sea.*

The French *King has many Advantages, which we have not, towards Manning his Fleet; for as his Trade is very little, compared with our's, to draw away his Seamen when the Publick Service requires them; ſo does he, by his Abſolute Power, oblige all to appear, on pain of Death, or grievous Puniſhments; whereas (I am ſorry to ſay it) the* Engliſh *Seamen, even when the Trade is ſtopt, have too often ſhelter'd themſelves, in hopes of being more advantageouſly Entertain'd by the Merchants when their Ships have liberty to proceed.*

Nor does France *want very conſiderable Helps from her Numerous Privateers; for (as I am credibly informed) that Monarch obliges them to take on board, and breed up, Numbers of Land-men, and to return into*

Port,

Port, upon occaſion, and deliver up their whole Complements at certain limitted Times, and then to ſupply themſelves again. Nay, a yet farther Advantage he has, by placing on board each of his Ships of War, as part of their allotted Number, (and which commonly exceeds, both in Officers and Men, what is allow'd to our Ships) at leaſt a Third Part Soldiers.

We had, indeed, ſome part of the laſt War ſeveral Marine Regiments, deſigned as a Nurſery for Seamen; but for want of their being put at firſt on a good Foot, they did, by degrees, dwindle away, and were at length wholly laid aſide: A Fate that (for my Country's ſake) I hope will not attend thoſe Six Regiments now allotted for Sea-Service: Nor can it well happen, if Care be taken to render them eaſy to others, as well as to themſelves; that is to ſay, by Paying and Cloathing them well, and enabling the Officers from time to time to Recruit, as their Men ſhall die, or be otherwiſe miſſing, without putting them to thoſe Straights, not only in theſe, but many other Particulars, which they were not able to get over the laſt War.

The Advantages are many which may accrue to the Publick Service, by keeping theſe Regiments entire. They will not only be of great Uſe in the Fleet, but be alſo very Serviceable in any Attempts on Shore; and

when

when they are not ſo employed, they may be Quartered near the Principal Dock-Yards, and not only work therein, upon occaſion, at very reaſonable Rates over and above their Common Daily Pay, but do Duty by Night, as well as in the Day-time, if required, whereby the uſual Charge of Watchmen will be ſaved, and the Magazines, and Ships lying up, be much more ſecure from Imbezelment, or Treachery. And further, when there ſhall be occaſion to ſend Ships on any immediate Service from any Port where theſe Marines are quartered, how ſoon may the ſaid Ships, if in want of Men, as well as Cruizers under thoſe Circumſtances, be ſupplied?

In fine, As all the Advantages which may ariſe from theſe Regiments, by good Management, cannot at preſent occur; ſo may any one foreſee that they will be of little uſe, unleſs the neceſſary Care be taken to enable their Officers to do their Parts, and that then the ſaid Officers take the like Care, in all reſpects, of their Men.

Marine Regiments are what almoſt all Nations find neceſſary, that have a Naval-Force; and even in the laſt Year's Expedition, we experienced the Uſefulneſs of them; as we did at the beginning of this preſent Year, when the Service required the ſpeedy diſpatching ſome Ships of War from Portſmouth.

Having

To the Reader.

Having now mention'd ſome of the Advantages which the French *King has towards Manning his Navy, I ſhall, in the next place, obſerve ſomething concerning the Methods we take therein; and,*

1. *It hath been Cuſtomary, at the beginning of each Year, and it is ſtill the Practice, to Promiſe, by Proclamation, a Bounty to all Seamen, and Able-body'd Landmen, who come into the Service by a certain Time, which is frequently Two Months Pay, and ſeldom more. This does, indeed, prevail upon many, but yet great Numbers do conceal themſelves until the Fleet is at Sea, and others lurk about even till the Time limitted for ſuch Bounty is near expired, which does in no little meaſure prevent the Fleet's being in a Readineſs for an early Campaign.*
2. *As the Seamen are thus encouraged to Enter Voluntarily, ſo is there another Method taken to Compell them to it; and that is, Preſſing, by Warrants from the Lord High Admiral to the Captains, and by them aſſigned to their ſeveral Lieutenants: And to render this the more Effectual, Veſſels are purpoſely hired into the Service, to proceed from Place to Place with thoſe Officers*

Officers and their Preſs-Gangs, not only to receive Volunteers, but to Impreſt what Men they can light on: And the Vice-Admirals of the ſeveral Counties were not long ſince Empower'd to Preſs, but that is at preſent diſcontinued, becauſe it was judged to be attended with more Trouble and Charge, than any Real Advantage to the Publick Service, tho' I do incline to believe, that it will hereafter be thought neceſſary, otherwiſe I cannot foreſee how the Sailers will either be ſtopt from running into the Inland Counties, or, when there, be brought back to the Fleet.

As the Succeſs of the aforeſaid Officers, with their Tenders and Preſs-Gangs, hath been Uncertain, ſo it is always very Expenſive; for altho' it often happens that ſome of them do luckily get good Numbers of Men, yet, on the other hand, many have been a conſiderable time employed to little or no purpoſe. It does therefore require the moſt ſerious Conſideration, what Methods may be for the future taken, for the more ſpeedy and effectual Manning the Fleet, ſince it is a Matter of the greateſt Conſequence to the Nation; and indeed it were much to be wiſh'd, as to one Particular, That the Civil Magiſtrates in the Port-Towns,

Towns, as well as in the Inland Counties, would exert themſelves more than ſome of them have hitherto done, and that inſtead of ſheltering ſtraggling Seamen, or at leaſt winking thereat, they would ſo far Contribute to the Good of their Country, and even themſelves, as to ſecure and ſend all ſuch Men to the Fleet. This would in little time put a Stop to the Cuſtom the Sailers have got of running into the Country, when there is greateſt Occaſion for them; for when they find that Sanctuary fails them, they will, with greater Readineſs, betake themſelves to the Publick Service. But I am in hopes, ſince Care is taken to make them eaſy, as to their Pay and other Particulars, there will be no occaſion to deal roughly with them, but that they will, for the future, rather ſo behave themſelves, that not only their Country-men, but the reſt of the World may be convinced, an Engliſh *Seaman does ſtill retain his wonted Zeal and Bravery.*

As the Government does, and ought to expect from the Sailers the moſt ſtrict Compliance with their Duty, ſo are there, on the other hand, ſeveral Things which ſhould be very carefully perform'd with reſpect to them: As,

1. *The looking well after them, when Wounded, or Sick, at Sea, and when*

they are put on Shore under thoſe Circumſtances. To this end there are Phyſicians in the Fleet, and with ſuitable Salaries, but whether the preſent Allowance of One to each Squadron may be ſufficient, eſpecially in the West Indies, *is not unworthy Conſideration; for certain it is, that there cannot be too much Care taken to preſerve a Race of Men ſo abſolutely neceſſary for the Good of our Country.*

This I think I may venture to ſay, That many of the Chirurgeons, but more eſpecially their Mates, which are employ'd in the Fleet, are not altogether ſo well Qualify'd as they ought to be; and yet the poor Men are forc'd to depend on their Skill, not only in Chirurgery, but Phyſick alſo, in the Abſence of a Phyſician.

Whether the preſent Allowance is ſufficient to invite Knowing Men to undertake this Employment (conſidering they are in Pay no longer than the Ships they ſerve in) I ſubmit to Judgment, and ſhall only add, That if it is not, I do heartily wiſh it was made ſo, ſince thoſe Men in the Ships that are promiſcuouſly Employ'd both at Home and Abroad, do, when they hap-

happen to be Sick or Wounded, Stand or Fall, in a great meaſure, by their Adminiſtration to them; and as I have ſome Reaſon to doubt, whether there are many of the Ableſt of our Sea-Chirurgeons, Qualify'd to judge Nicely of many Diſtempers incident to a Sailer, ſo muſt they, if not ſo Qualify'd, be conſequently greatly to ſeek for proper Remedies.

2. *When the Sailers are put Sick aſhore, they are provided for by Officers appointed at the ſeveral Ports by the Commiſſioners for Sick and Wounded, whoſe Buſineſs it is to take care not only for their Lodgment and Nurſes, but alſo for all other Things neceſſary for the Cure of their Wounds, and Diſeaſes. And as I make no doubt but thoſe Gentlemen who now have, or others who may have, a Power to Superviſe theſe Matters, will zealouſly perform their Parts, and oblige their Subordinate Officers to do the like; ſo muſt it be owned, that a Juſt and Charitable Care in theſe Matters will much contribute, not only to the Preſervation of the Seamen, but to the confirming in them a hearty Love and Affection to the Publick Service: And as it were much to be wiſhed, that ſome ſpeedy*

Care were taken towards the Reception of Poor, Maim'd, and Diſabled Seamen, and the Widows and Children of ſuch who have loſt their Lives in the Publick Service, into the Hoſpital at Greenwich; *ſo am I not without Hopes, that many well-diſpoſed Perſons will largely Contribute towards ſo Charitable a Work, when they find that the true Intent thereof is zealouſly promoted.*

3. *Furthermore it is of no little Conſequence to the Good of the Service, that the Captains of the Ships of War do take a Fatherly Care of the Men under their Command, by ſeeing that Right be done them in every Particular; for they are entirely committed to their Government: And as this will not only greatly conduce to the General Quiet and Satisfaction of the Men, ſo will it alſo redound to the Particular Honour and Reputation of the Commanders themſelves. Far be it from me to make a General, or even a Particular Reflection; and therefore, ſince 'tis not ſo intended, none can have Reaſon to Complain; but this I am aſſured of, that thoſe Gentlemen will find the Conveniencies, which will attend the Countenancing of thoſe who deſerve well, and Puniſhing others who*

who are diſorderly, according to the known Diſcipline of the Sea, and not otherwiſe.

4. *There is one Thing which gives no little Uneaſineſs to many Seafaring Men, and that is, the not diſcharging them from one Ship into another, when Offers are made to advance them to the Emploies of Mates, Midſhipmen, or the like. The Denial of this is indeed a Diſcouragement; for when a Sailer has, by his Induſtry and length of Service, made himſelf capable of ſuch ſmall Employments, how can he think it other than hard Uſage, to be tied down before the Maſt as long as he lives.*

5. *As it is abſolutely neceſſary for the Commanders themſelves to Treat their Men humanely, and to ſhew them all good Examples, it is alſo indiſpenſibly ſo, that they take all poſſible Care to oblige the Commiſſion Officers, and others under them, to do the like, that ſo the Sailers may not have juſt Reaſon to ſlight their Neceſſary Command, upon account of any Indecency or Diſorders they ſhall diſcover in them; for as moſt Men are but too liable to follow ill Example, ſo is there nothing can more contribute to wholeſome Diſcipline, than the Officers practiſing*

themſelves, what they ought to exact from the Men they have Authority over.

6. *Another Thing which requires more than Ordinary Care, is the ſupplying the Fleet with good and wholeſome Proviſions, the Want whereof ſubjects the Men to many Diſtempers. This Care ought to extend it ſelf as well to Quantity as Quality; for as nothing does more Diſcourage a Sailer than his being Wrong'd in the firſt, ſo is there not any thing ſubjects them to Diſeaſes, ſo much as a Defect in the latter.*

This Affair of Victualling was formerly performed by Contractors, but for a long time it has been under the Care of Commiſſioners, who keep their General Office on Tower-hill, *and have not only their proper Agents at the ſeveral Victualling Ports in this Kingdom, but alſo their Correſpondents abroad.*

I ſhall not pretend to offer Phyſical Reaſons, why the eating too much Salt Meats is prejudicial to the Health of Men, but it has often been obſerved, that the Seamen of other Nations (and particularly the Dutch) *who feed oftener on other Species of Proviſions, are not expoſed to Sickneſs like our's. Nay, ſo Healthy are the Seamen of the States,*

that

that I queſtion whether they did, during the whole War, carry ſo much as an Hoſpital Ship with the groſs of their Fleet, whereas we have had ſometimes Three, four, or more, and they fill'd but too often.

I am ſenſible that it will be a conſiderable Charge, when the Fleet ſhall be at Sea, to ſend Veſſels on purpoſe with Freſh Proviſions for the Sick or Wounded Men; but ſince it may very much contribute to the ſaving the Lives of great Numbers, may not the Conſequence of that much over-ballance the other?

I have experienced, during my Service in the Fleet, that by a long Cruize in the Soundings *the Men fell ſick in great Numbers, and that the Scurvy, or Fevers, were the moſt reigning Diſtempers, inſomuch that it may be truly ſaid, many of them died for want of a fitting Proportion of Freſh Proviſions, before they could reach any Port to be taken care of; and even thoſe whoſe Diſtempers did not carry them off e're they could be put on Shore, were, for want of ſuch Neceſſaries, reduced to ſo weak a condition, that it required a longer Time for their Recovery than the Service would admit the Fleet to ſtay for them; wherefore if Care could be taken thus to refreſh the Men, when at Sea, the Government (which allows them in Wages, and is put to other Charges for a Month's time,*

when ſent Sick aſhore, if they do not ſooner recover) would be in a great meaſure eaſed as to that Expence, and the Fleet be conſtantly in a much better Condition for Service.

But if it ſhall be thought too great a Charge to take up Veſſels on purpoſe to attend the Fleet the whole Campaign, yet it ſeems not unreaſonable, that when the Fleet ſhall have been at Sea a conſiderable time, there ſhould be Freſh Proviſions ſent out to them, and when diſtributed to each Ship, according as there ſhall be occaſion, thoſe Veſſels may be diſcharged the Service. Nay, a great part of this ſo neceſſary Expenee might be ſaved, by ſending in the Tenders which uſually accompany the Fleet; and when the Sailers are thus ſupplied with Freſh, it goes in lieu of Salt Meats, and other Species of Proviſions; ſo that as there will ariſe no Additional Charge on that Account, it may be of great Service by lengthening out the Sea-Proviſions; the want of timely Supplies whereof, at ſeveral times during the laſt War, I have known has greatly obſtructed thoſe Deſigns, which otherwiſe might have been carried on with greater Advantage to the Publick.

Having thus touched on ſome Things which in my Opinion may be for the Advantage of the Publick Service, and agreeable to the Seamen, I come now to make

ſome

To the Reader.

ſome Obſervations relating to the Navy it ſelf, and ſhall in the firſt place give an Account of the Numbers and Rates of Ships and Veſſels of which it is compoſed, Viz.

Rate.	Number.	N° of Men for their higheſt Complement.
1.	7	5308
2.	14	8834
3.	47	21147
4.	61	15702
5.	30	4130
6.	14	1480
Fireſhips	11	495
Bomb-Veſſels	13	450
Yachts	15	336
Advice-Boats	3	115
Brigantines	5	175
Sloops	10	335
Pink	1	20
Ketch	1	50
Storeſhips	3	123
Hulks	12	225
Hoys	16	75
Smacks	2	12
Hired Storeſhips	3	132
Hoſpital Ships	6	335
	274	59479

Of which Number all are in in a Condition for Service, except two Firſt, ſix Second, four Third, and one Fifth Rate.

In

To the Reader.

In time of Peace theſe Ships are laid up at the Principal Yards, namely Chatham, Portſmouth, Plimouth, Woolwich, Deptford, *and* Sheer-neſs; *but the biggeſt, and the greateſt number of the biggeſt Ships, are always lodged at* Chatham, *where, and at the other Yards, they receive from time to time ſuch Repairs as are neceſſary; but their Bodies are more thoroughly look'd into in time of Peace, than 'tis poſſible to do when War requires their conſtant Service.*

At the ſeveral Dock-Yards before mentioned are the Magazines of all ſorts of Naval-Stores; and how much it imports the Good of the Publick to keep thoſe Magazines conſtantly repleniſhed, every one is able to judge. They are generally ſupplied from the Northern Crowns, that is to ſay, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, Roſin, and ſeveral other Species; but as for Maſts, particularly thoſe of largeſt ſize, they are brought from New-England; *and it were much to be wiſh'd, that the improving the afore-mentioned Commodities in Her Majeſty's own Plantations might meet with all poſſible Encouragement, leſt one time or other it may prove difficult to get them elſewhere. It is reaſonable to think, that ſuch an Undertaking will put the Nation to ſome conſiderable Charge e're it be brought to Perfection; but when ſo, many are the Advantages that will ariſe from it.*

For

To the Reader.

For the Receipt and Iſſue of all Naval-Stores, there is a particular Storekeeper at each Yard; but as the other Officers, namely the Maſter Attendant, Maſter Shipwright, Clerks of the Checque and Survey, are more or leſs a Checque on the ſaid Storekeeper, ſo is there one of the Principal Officers and Commiſſioners of the Navy particularly appointed to reſide at, and inſpect into Affairs of the Principal Yards, and another, who aſſiſts at the Board in Town, is charged with the Examining and Adjuſting the Storekeeper's Accounts, as a Second is thoſe of the Treaſurer of the Navy, and a Third the Accounts of Victualling; And as each of the aforeſaid Warrant Officers in the Yards have their peculiar Duties aſſigned them, viz. *The Maſter Shipwright in building Ships, the Maſter Attendant in the proportioning Rigging for them, and putting it over head; laying out Moorings, and removing Ships from one Mooring to another, with ſeveral other Services; ſo are the Clerks of the Checque employed in Muſtering the Workmen in the Yards, and the Ships Companies within their Reach, and Checquing them out of Wages when abſent, and both they, and the Clerk of the Survey, inſpect into all Stores delivered, to ſee that they anſwer to Contract, both in Quantity and Quality.*

Beſides

Beſides theſe Principal Officers in the Yards, there are others inferiour to them, but all are under the immediate Command of the Commiſſioners reſiding on the Place. Thoſe inferiour Officers are the Aſſiſtants to the Maſter Shipwrights, Maſter Caulker, Maſter Houſe-Carpenter, Maſter Joyner, Maſter Boatbuilder, Maſter Maſtmaker, Foremen both on ſhore and aſloat, Boatſwain of the Yard, Maſter Sailmaker, and the like, who have alſo each of them their particular Duties aſſigned.

It is of greateſt Conſequence to the Publick, that thoſe Officers of the Yards, who have the Care and Inſpection of Repairing and Refitting the Ships of the Royal Navy, ſhould employ their utmoſt Care and Diligence in the well-performing the ſame, by ſearching very narrowly their Hulls; for it hath been experienced, that when Ships have had much Time and Money ſpent on them, they have been obliged, by reaſon of Leaks, or other Defects, to return very ſuddenly into Port again, and by that means the Nation hath, to a very great Degree, loſt the Benefit of their Service. As theſe are Misfortunes that ought, above all Things, to be prevented, ſo do they chiefly happen in time of greateſt Action, when the Service cannot admit of ſearching, and ſo throughly repairing the Bottoms of the Ships as in Peace.

And

And as, for the Reaſons aforeſaid, it is abſolutely neceſſary to employ all imaginable Zeal and Care in this Particular, ſo may there be One more added thereunto, and that of no little Conſequence, namely the great Conſumption of Timber in building Ships, eſpecially thoſe of the greateſt Magnitude, or in the Rebuilding them, when they ſhall be found almoſt worn out; and I could heartily wiſh, that more Zeal may be hereafter ſhewn, as well to the Growth as Preſervation of Timber neceſſary for theſe Services, than hath been for many Years paſt; otherwiſe it may, one time or other, prove of the greateſt ill Conſequence.

There is one Thing which hath very much obſtructed the intended Service of the Cruizing Frigats, and more eſpecially in the Winter Seaſon, which is the frequent Loſs of their Sails, made of Canvas worked up in England, *and which comes far ſhort of what we have from* Holland, *as to Strength and Goodneſs. 'Tis true, the Uſe of this Manufacture was introduced into the Navy for the Benefit of our own Country, and for that Reaſon it were much to be wiſhed, that it might in time be brought to Perfection, as it has, indeed, been of late very much amended; for otherwiſe the Uſe thereof may prove greatly Prejudicial, not only with reſpect to the Danger the Great Ships may be expoſed to thereby, but by the obliging the*

Smaller

Smaller to come into Port for New Supplies, when the Safety of the Trade in the Chanel, and up and down in the Soundings, and elſewhere, does abſolutely require their keeping out at Sea. Nay more than this, Opportunities of Service may be loſt, not only with Squadrons, but ſingle Ships, upon meeting an Enemy, for if the Sails prove bad, it may on the one hand impede their getting up with them, and on the other, ſubject them to a Surprize when out-number'd: And the Conſequence may be fatal to a Fleet, or any number of Ships on a Lee-ſhore.

We are now entred into a Second War with France, *and that even before we had a true Reliſh of the Peace, which was ſo ſolemnly Ratify'd at* Ryſwick. *The Ambition of the* French *King has been the ſole Occaſion of it, who eſteems nothing binding to him, when he has Opportunities of breaking his Word and Faith, with a Proſpect of Advantage; which I think is ſo obvious to all Chriſtendom, that there needs no other Argument to eſtabliſh a Belief of it. And ſince Her Majeſty, with her Allies, hath heartily gone into this ſo neceſſary a War, in order to the procuring Quiet to thoſe which* France *doth unjuſtifiably diſturb, I hope Providence will ſo far Approve of the Juſtice of our Cauſe, as to enable*

enable us to bring down the Pride and Ambition of that Monarch, and to make him ſenſible, that the Graſping at the Birth-Rights of others, will one time or other (as it ought) occaſion the Ruine of his own.

As the former War was conſtantly attended with the vaſt Expence of Great Fleets, ſo I have Reaſon to doubt this will. We then thought it neceſſary for the Safety of our Country, and the Trade, becauſe 'twas uncertain what Strength the Enemy would ſet forth. France *knowing we would do this, did frequently, and induſtriouſly amuſe us, with their pretended* Great Preparations; *and yet, during two Thirds of the whole War, they did not appear at Sea with more than Squadrons, while our Great Fleets encountring the Winds and Waves, did not only very much impair their Hulls, but great Loſs of Maſts, Yards, Sails, and* Ground Tackle, *was occaſion'd thereby.*

For Eaſing the Publick Charge, *methinks the Great Ships ſhould be as early Paid off, each Year, as 'tis poſſible, if it ſhall be found neceſſary to fit them out at all; but in this, we muſt be Govern'd by the beſt Accounts that can be procur'd, of the Enemy's real Preparations and Deſigns. This I am well aſſured of, That the* French *King is not able to Arm out a Strength capable to Cope with the Body of the* Engliſh *and* Dutch *Fleets, after each Nation hath taken the*

Neceſ-

Neceſſary Care of their Trade, by proper Convoies and Cruizers; nor can France *enter the Liſts, even with* England *alone, provided our Ships were all, or the moſt part of them, Employ'd at Home; for as the* 16 *Ships of the Line of Battel, which were partly burnt, and partly taken, at* Vigo *in* Galicia, *by Sir* George Rooke, *in his Return with the Fleet the laſt Year from* Cadiz, *has in a great meaſure weakened their Strength, (as the taking ſeveral, and burning other Galleons, which Monſieur* Chateau-Renault *brought thither from the* Havana, *has put them to great Straights for want of Money) ſo will they not, in my poor Opinion, be able to Repair this Loſs, with that Expedition they did the Blow given them by the Earl of* Orford, *the laſt War, at* La Hogue *and* Cherbrooke; *for 'tis credibly reported, That they built* 15 *or* 16 *Ships in One Year and a half, (the moſt of them Capital Ones) and that they were not only called by the ſame Names, but were of the very ſame Dimenſions with thoſe burnt at the aforeſaid Places; which probably the* French *King might cauſe to be done, as much to Amuſe the next Age, by rendering it almoſt beyond Credit, that ſuch a Loſs could happen to him, and be ſo ſoon Repair'd, as for any other ſingle Reaſon.*

It is more than probable therefore, that He will think it his greateſt Intereſt to lie

on

on the Watch, and endeavour to Surprize us, either here or abroad, if he finds our Fleet ſo divided as to give an Opportunity for it, rather than ſet forth any conſiderable Fleet, to oblige us to keep Our's intire in theſe Seas in order to a General Engagement; but I queſtion not there will be all poſſible Care taken to prevent his having any Advantage of this Nature.

But notwithſtanding what has been already ſaid, in relation to our Great Ships, If it ſhall be certainly known that France *does really intend to make their utmoſt Effort in theſe Seas, by Equipping and Setting forth all their Ships fit for Service, and that (beſides the Numerous Services which call for our Fourth Rates, and ſmaller Ships) we are obliged to have a large Squadron in the* Weſt Indies, *and poſſibly others elſewhere; I ſay, in ſuch caſe, there will be an indiſpenſable Neceſſity for our Arming, in our own Defence, all or the moſt part of our Capital Ships.*

On the other hand, if the French *King ſhall find it neceſſary to keep up his Great Ships in Harbour, and probably good part of the reſt of his Navy, what Neceſſity is there for Launching our Firſt and Second Rates into the Sea? I cannot foreſee the Advantages which may ariſe from it, but that, on the contrary, they will, after having put the Nation to a very conſiderable*

Charge, return into Port in a much worſe Condition than when they went out.

Undoubtedly the chief Thing to be aim'd at, in this Caſe, is to Man the Third Rates, and all our nimble Frigats well, and to keep them conſtantly Employ'd, for the Security of our Coaſts and Trade, either in Squadrons or otherwiſe, as the Service ſhall from time to time require. Experience has taught us, that by putting forth the Great Ships, neither they nor the Cruizers can be timely, or tolerably well Man'd, and conſequently neither the one nor the other in ſo good a Condition of Safety, or to Defend themſelves, as otherwiſe they would be, either in Extremity of Weather, or their Encountering an Enemy. Nay, put the Caſe yet farther, That the French, *knowing our Great Ships are not out, ſhould thereupon Arm their's, it is to be hoped we ſhall not unfortunately miſs ſuch early Notice thereof, as may Enable us, by a Vigorous Preſs, and calling in ſome of the ſmaller Ships, to Man our Firſt and Second Rates, before the Enemy can have any Advantage over us. I cannot but differ in Opinion with ſome, That* England *is in Want of Seafaring-Men to Navigate it's Royal Navy; for, on the contrary, I do really believe, there might be found more than ſufficient, both for That, and the Trade, did both the one and the other call for much*

larger

larger Supplies; but then the proper Methods muſt be taken, and all Perſons concerned muſt Zealouſly do their Duty therein: Nor will I ſo much as doubt the good Inclinations of the Seamen to the Publick Service, ſince they find themſelves ſo well Paid, and ſo kindly Treated in other Reſpects.

I ſhall conclude with a ſhort Obſervation concerning the Trade of this Kingdom in time of Action. I do well remember, that in the laſt War the French *did, with their Cruizers and Privateers, frequently take our Merchant Ships, but more particularly when they came into the Soundings from Foreign Voyages: And it is as freſh in my Memory, that the then Board of Admiralty did, on that Score, labour under very great Uneaſineſs and Difficulties, upon Reflections and Complaints that they had not a due Care of the Trade. Now, as it was then, and will hereafter be, as impoſſible entirely to prevent ſuch Misfortunes as Robberies on the Highways, conſidering the great Numbers of the Enemy's Privateers; ſo it may be truly ſaid, that no ſmall number of thoſe Ships and Veſſels which fell into the Hands of the Enemy, were ſuch whoſe Maſters did negligently, if not wilfully, leave their Convoys when they came near their Ports, either in hopes to come firſt to the Market, or for ſome other End.*

To the Reader.

I ſhall only give one of the many Inſtances of this kind, and that in relation to a great Fleet of Merchant Ships which were coming from Virginia. *Theſe Ships kept with their Convoy till they arrived in the Soundings, and then a conſiderable Number of them belonging to* Briſtol *taking the Opportunity of the Night, thought fit to ſeparate, and were, I think, every one of them ſurprized by the Enemy before they could reach their Port, whereas all the reſt came ſafe home. This occaſion'd a great Clamour, and the Fact being thoroughly Examin'd into by a Committee of the Houſe of Commons, it was plainly proved that the Ships were loſt by the Careleſneſs (I will not ſay Villany) of their Maſters. Now if ſome Penalty could be laid, by Act of Parliament, on the Maſters of Ships and Veſſels who ſhall thus leave their Convoys, and thereby not only expoſe their Owners to Ruine, and prejudice Her Majeſty in Her Revenue, but ſubject themſelves and Countrymen to Impriſonment and Hardſhips, and by that Means deprive the Publick of their Service, 'tis hoped it may, in a very great meaſure, prevent this Evil for the future.*

ERRATA.

PAge 18. in the 2d Note in the Margin, for *Forches*, read *Forces*. Page 26, in the Marginal Note, for *attacking* London-Derry, read *relieving* London-Derry. Page 91, in the 2d Note, for *Hroviſions*, read *Proviſions*.

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TRANS-

TRANSACTIONS AT SEA DURING THE *War* with *France*: Begun in 1688.

SINCE the Motives which induced His late Majeſty, when Prince of *Orange*, to concern himſelf for the Preſervation of the Religion and Liberties of theſe Kingdoms, and thoſe unhappy Proceedings which loſt King *James* the Hearts of his Subjects, who, at the Death of his Royal Brother, joyfully proclaim'd his Succeſſion to the Throne, have been fully ſet forth on divers occaſions, I ſhall, without any repetiti- *Introduction.*

ons thereof, leave the Reader to the following Sheets, which contain an Account of Remarkable Tranſactions at Sea, during the War which happen'd thereupon.

K. James has notice of the Preparations in Holland.

It is well known, That the Invitations His late Majeſty received in the Year 1688, led him to make Preparations in *Holland* for an Expedition to this Kingdom. King *James* had advice of the Progreſs that was from time to time made, and although he was not, at firſt, throughly convinc'd that the Deſign was levelled here, (notwithſtanding he had then an Ambaſſador at the *Hague*) yet being afterwards aſſured thereof, and having a ſmall Squadron of Ships in Pay, Commanded by Sir *Roger Strickland*, then Rear-Admiral of *England*, he thought it convenient to gather them together, and, about the middle of *June*, to ſend out ſome Scouts to obſerve the Motions of the *Dutch* Fleet. Not long after that, the Squadron it ſelf was ordered to Sea, and made two ſhort Trips to and from *Solebay*, the laſt after King *James* had viſited them at the *Buoy of the Nore*, and conſulted with his Flag Officer, and the Captains, what was moſt adviſeable to be done, for intercepting the *Dutch* Fleet in their Paſſage; for at that

Scouts ſent out.

A Squadron ſent out with Sir Rog. Strickland.

that time it was altogether unknown to him, to what part of the Kingdom they were deſigned.

The Preparations in *Holland* advancing apace, it was thought neceſſary to ſend Inſtructions to Sir *Roger Strickland*, how he ſhould govern himſelf in ſo important an Affair; of which Inſtructions I think it not improper to inſert the following Copy.

James *R.*

Inſtructions to Sir Roger Strickland.

WHereas We have been lately given to underſtand, that great Preparations are at this Day making by the States of the United Provinces *for encreaſing their Naval Force now at Sea, by the addition of a conſiderable Number of their greater Ships; and foraſmuch as We think it behoving Us, that, for preventing, as much as may be, the Evil that may be intended towards Us, Our Government, or the Trade of Our Subjects, you, with the Commanders of Our Ships under your charge, be, without delay, advertiſed thereof, We have to that purpoſe cauſed this by Expreſs to be diſpatched to you, to the end that upon receipt hereof you may immediately apply your ſelf to the conſidering and putting in Execution whatever you, with the Advice of ſuch of your Commanders as you ſhall call to your Aſſiſtance therein, ſhall judge expedient, for the putting*

and keeping Our ſaid Ships in a Condition of attending the Motion of thoſe of the States, as you ſhall from time to time conceive moſt for Our Service. To which end, though ſuch is Our reliance upon your approved Diligence, Integrity, Valour and Experience, in Maritime Affairs, that We do hereby entirely commit the whole Conduct hereof in all Emergencies to your ſole Direction and Diſcretion, yet We conceive it not unuſeful (without Conſtraint) to recommend to you, in your Proceedings therein, the following Conſiderations.

1. *That two of Our Ships (to be changed once a Week) may be always kept Cruizing off of* Orford-neſs, *in order to as early diſcovering as may be the Approach or Motion of thoſe of the States, with Inſtructions not to fail, ſo ſoon as any ſuch Diſcovery ſhall be made, to repair with advice thereof to your ſelf to the* Downes, *or where elſe you ſhall appoint for their meeting you.*

2. *That ſo ſoon as the Wind ſhall come Eaſterly, and whilſt it ſo continues, the like be done by Ships to be by you employed between the* Goodwin *and* Calais, *for preventing the States Ships paſſing by undiſcovered to the Weſtward.*

And here you are to take Notice, That for the more effectual ſecuring of timely Advice to you of the Proceedings of the Ships of the States, and eaſing you in the

Ships

Ships to be ſpared for this uſe, We have determined to cauſe ſome Barking *Smacks, or other ſmall Craft proper for that Work, to be without delay taken up and ſent forth to that Purpoſe, with like Inſtructions to repair from time to time to you, with Advice, as before: of the readineſs of which Veſſels to proceed on this Service, you ſhall be further informed from the Secretary of Our Admiralty.*

3. *That upon your being advertiſed of the* Dutch *Ships being come to Sea, and of their Motion there, it may be adviſeable (which way ſoever they bend, whether to the Northward, down the Chanel into the River, or towards the* Downes) *that you with Our Squadron do get under Sail, and (quitting the* Downes *either by the North or South Foreland according to your diſcretion) endeavour to follow them, ſo as always (if poſſible) to keep between them and their Home: And in caſe of their attempting to make any Deſcent, by Landing of Men upon any of Our Coaſts, you are to proceed hoſtilely upon them, for the preventing or intercepting them as much as may be in their ſaid Attempt.*

4. *That care be taken, by timely Orders to be given on that behalf, that effectual Proviſion be always made for Our Ships reſorting to ſome known Places of Rendezvous in caſes of ſeparation: And that as*

frequent advice of the Proceedings of the Dutch *be by you diſpatched, as conveniently may be, to the Secretary of Our Admiralty, for Our Information. And whereas, for the better enforcing the preſent Squadron of Our Ships under your Command, We have determined upon converting thoſe of the Fifth Rate into Fireſhips, and ſetting forth others of the Third and Fourth in their rooms, in the doing whereof all endeavours of diſpatch will be uſed, Our Will and Pleaſure is, That you do forthwith iſſue your Orders to the Lord* Berkeley, *to take the firſt Opportunity of Wind and Weather for bringing the* Charles Galley *to* Sheerneſs, *there with her Company to be removed into ſuch other Ships as we ſhall, by Commiſſion, have then appointed for him. But We are pleaſed to direct, That in caſe the* Reſerve *be ſtill with you, and that you conceive her in any Condition of being kept abroad a while longer, for anſwering the preſent Exigence, till thoſe Recruits, or part of them ſhall come to you, you do reſpite the ſending her to* Portſmouth *till farther Order: For which this ſhall be your Warrant. Given at Our Court at* Windſor, *the* 22*d of* Auguſt, 1688.

By Command of His Majeſty,

S. Pepys.

The Flag Officer being thus Inſtructed, it may be neceſſary to let you know the Strength of the Squadron, and what Ships were ordered to be got in readineſs to join him; which was as follows, *viz.*

Number and Rates of Ships that were with Sir Roger Strickland.

Rate.	*Number.*	
3d	1	*Ships deſigned to intercept the Dutch Fleet.*
4	16	
5	3	26
6	2	
Fireſhips	4	

Ordered to be fitted out to join him.

3d	10	
4	11	35
6	1	
Fireſhips	13	

61 in all;

Beſides 6 Tenders, to be employed as Scouts.

Sir *Roger* found, upon Enquiry, that the Ships he had with him were very ill Mann'd; and ſince there was but little proſpect of a ſpeedy ſupply of Seamen, he deſired that ſome Soldiers might be ſent on board; which was done, thô not with ſuch Expedition as the nature of the Service required. He afterwards adviſed with the moſt experienced Officers in the Squadron, upon the Contents of his Inſtruction, and both himſelf and they were of Opinion, That they ought, when Victualled, to ſail to the *Gunfleet*; for that they might there ſooner get Intelligence of the Motion of the *Dutch*, than by ſtaying in the *Downes*, ſince with Weſterly Winds it would be 5 or 6 days before the Scouts off of *Orford-neſs* could ply it up; whereas the Squadron might ſoon put to Sea from the *Gunfleet*, upon notice of the *Dutch* being come out. But, if this met not with his Majeſty's Approbation, he propoſed, that one or two of the Scouts might ſail directly to the Coaſt of *Holland*, to make Diſcoveries, whilſt he, at the ſame time, ſent two of his cleaneſt Ships off of *Orford-neſs*, for the ſame purpoſe.

Sir Roger's Opinion to ſail to the Gunfleet.

Soon

Soon after King *James* received this Letter, he ſignified his Pleaſure thereupon in the manner following; by which it appears, That the Opinion of the Flag-Officer, and the Captains under him, was not ſo much adher'd to, as might have been expected from the Contents of the firſt Inſtructions; for His Majeſty let him know, That having conſidered well of his Propoſals, and debated the ſame with ſeveral of the moſt experienc'd Commanders, and Maſters, he was fully convinc'd, that it could not in any wiſe be convenient for his Service to put the ſame in Execution; for that the *Gunfleet*, at ſuch a Seaſon of the Year, was a very ill Road, and that if the Wind happen'd to be Eaſterly, he would be liable to be driven up the River by the *Dutch*; a Thing which he thought ought moſt of all to be avoided. Wherefore he directed him to go out of the *Downes* with the firſt Eaſterly Wind, and to lie between the *South-Sand's Head* and the *Kentiſh Knock*, there to continue under Sail all day, and at Anchor in the night-time, if fair Weather; but if it happen'd to over-blow, and that the *Dutch* Fleet did not appear, he was to proceed, by the back of the *Goodwin*, to *Bulloigne* Bay, and there ſtay till he was

King James's Directions to him thereupon.

was ſatisfied they were either paſs'd down the Channel, or gone up the River: In the former of which Caſes it was recommended to him to follow them, as near as he ſhould judge convenient, till they were between the *Lizard* and *Scilly*, and finding them proceeding farther, to return to *St. Hellen's*, or *Spithead*; but if they bent their Courſe into the River, he was to endeavour to return by the back of the *Goodwin*, and to get the Wind of them. For the reſt, it was left to him to do what he ſhould judge beſt for the Service, with this only Proviſo, That ſo ſoon as the Wind came up Weſterly, and that none of the afore-mentioned Caſes happen'd, he was to repair to the *Downes*. And here it may not be improper to obſerve, That theſe Directions, rather to proceed to *Bulloigne* Bay than the *Gunfleet*, were determined upon a ſolemn Debate the day before, (*viz.* the 26th of *Auguſt*) in King *James*'s Cloſet at *Windſor*, the following Perſons being preſent, who were particularly ſummoned from *London*, namely, the Lord *Dartmouth*, Mr. *Pepys* Secretary of the Admiralty, Sir *John Berry*, and three Elder Brothers of the *Trinity-houſe* of *Deptford Strond*, namely, Capt. *Atkinſon*, Capt. *Mudd*, and Capt. *Rutter*, as alſo Capt. *John Clements*. The

The 2d of *September*, Sir *Roger Strickland* had Advice from one of the Scouts, that 25 Sail of the *Dutch* Fleet, 16 of them great Ships, were off of *Goree*, ſome of them under Sail, with 3 Flags, *viz.* Admiral, Vice, and Rear, and that they all lay with their Top-ſails looſe upon the Windward Tide. *Advice of the readineſs of the Dutch Fleet.*

King *James* thinking his Squadron (which tho they were very ill Mann'd, were, for what Reaſon I know not, forbid to Preſs, even out of homeward-bound Merchant Ships) not of Strength ſufficient to intercept the *Dutch*, ordered them to retire to the *Nore*; but yet directed that two of the cleaneſt Frigats ſhould ply off of *Orford-neſs*, and that upon the firſt Appearance of a Foreign Fleet, one of them ſhould immediately repair to the *Nore* with Advice thereof, and the other remain in her Station, to obſerve whether the ſaid Fleet made up for *Harwich* or the River, and then alſo come to the *Nore*, and give notice thereof by the uſual Signals. And that the Motions of the *Dutch* might be the better known, it was recommended to Sir *Roger Strickland*, as a Matter of greateſt Importance, ſo to employ all the Scout-Veſſels, as that he might have from them, and King *James* himſelf from him, *The Squadron ordered from the Downes to the Nore.*

him, the moſt frequent, quick, and exact Accounts of their Proceedings on their own Coaſt, and their departure thence.

Ld. Dartmouth *appointed Admiral of the Fleet.*

The beginning of *October* following, King *James* thought fit to appoint the Lord *Darmouth* Admiral of the Fleet, who diligently apply'd himſelf in haſtening to the *Buoy of the Nore* all Ships and Veſſels that were fitting out in the Rivers of *Thames* and *Medway*, and received the following Inſtructions; in the Execution whereof I had the Honour to accompany his Lordſhip, as I did ſeveral Years before in his Expedition for the demoliſhing of *Tangier* in *Barbary*.

Inſtructions to the Lord *Dartmouth*.

James R.

Inſtructions to the Ld. Dartmouth.

WHereas We have received undoubted Advice, That a great and ſudden Invaſion from Holland, *with an Armed Force of Foreigners and Strangers, will be made ſpeedily in an Hoſtile manner upon this Our Kingdom; Our Will and Pleaſure is, That all Neceſſary Orders being by you iſſued for the haſtening Our Ships and Veſſels now fitting forth out of the Ri-*

vers

vers of Thames *and* Medway, *and from* Portſmouth, *together with thoſe already at Sea under Command of Sir* Roger Strickland *Kt. Vice-Admiral of Our ſaid Fleet, to their intended Rendezvous at the* Buoy of the Nore, *(a perfect Liſt of all which Ships, Fireſhips, and other Veſſels, is hereunto annexed) you do with all diligence repair on board Our Ship* Reſolution, *Captain* William Davis *Commander, or ſuch other of Our Ships as you ſhall now, and at any time or times hereafter, think fit to bear Our Flag (as Admiral) upon, taking upon you the Charge and Conduct of Our ſaid Fleet, and what other Ships ſhall at any time hereafter be by Us ſet forth for re-inforcing the ſame. Which Fleet, and every part thereof, We (out of Our entire reliance upon your approved Loyalty, Valour, Circumſpection, and Experience) do hereby Authorize and Empower you to lead, and by your Orders to direct and diſpoſe of at all ſuch Times, and in all Emergencies, as you in your Diſcretion ſhall judge moſt conducing to Our Honour, and the Security of Our Dominions, and particularly in the preventing the approach of any Fleet or Number of Ships of War from* Holland *upon any of Our Coaſts, or their making any Deſcent upon the ſame. Towards your more effectual Execution whereof, We do hereby farther Empower and Require you,*

to endeavour by all Hoſtile Means to ſink, burn, take, and otherwiſe deſtroy and diſable the ſaid Fleet and Ships thereof, when and whereſoever you ſhall meet with, or otherwiſe think fit to look out for and attack the ſame, giving a perfect Account of your Proceedings therein to the Secretary of Our Admiralty for Our Information: And for ſo doing, this ſhall be your Warrant. Given at Our Court at Whitehall *this Firſt of* October, 1688.

By His Majeſty's Command,

S. Pepys.

The following LIST of the Fleet was annex'd to the foregoing Inſtructions.

Ships for the Main Fleet.

Rate.	Ships Names.	*Where they were.*
3 ——	*Mary* ——	Coming to the *Nore* with Sir *Roger Strickland.*
	Mountague.	
4 ——	*Aſſurance.*	
	Jerzey.	
	Conſtant Warwick.	
	Briſtol.	
	Norfuch ——	

Crown

Rate.	Ships Names	Where they were.
4 ——	*Crown* ——	Coming to the *Nore* with Sir *Roger Strick-land.*
	Dover.	
	Mordaunt.	
	Greenwich.	
	Tyger.	
	Bonaduenture.	
6 ——	*Larke.*	
Fireſhips,	*Sally Roſe.*	
	Half Moon.	
	St. Paul ——	
Yachts 3.	——	River.
4 ——	*Foreſight* ——	At the *Nore.*
	Deptford ——	Off of *Orford-neſs.*
Fireſhip,	*Dartmouth* ——	
4 ——	*Faulcon* ——	Coming to the *Nore* from *Yarmouth.*
Fireſhip,	*Sampſon* ——	
6 ——	*Saudadoes* ——	*Downes.*

Ships fitting out.

3 ——	*Defiance* ——	At *Blackſtakes.*
	Reſolution.	
	Henrietta ——	
	Cambridge ——	At *Chatham.*
	Elizabeth.	
	Pendennis.	
4 ——	*Newcaſtle.*	
	Woolwich ——	
3 ——	*Rupert* ——	In the *Hope.*

York

Rate.	Ships Names.	*Where they were.*
3	*York*	At *Portſmouth.*
	Dreadnought.	
	Plimouth.	
Fireſhips,	*Pearl.*	
	Richmond.	
	Charles and Henry.	
	Unity	
4	*Advice*	At *Spithead.*
	Diamond	
6	*Ruby*	In *Longreach.*
	St. David.	
	Centurion.	
	Portſmouth.	
	Firedrake.	
Fireſhips,	*Guardland.*	
	Guernſey.	
	Swan.	
	Sophia.	
	Speedwell.	
	Elizabeth and Sarah.	
	Cignet.	
	Charles.	
	Roebuck.	
4	*Anthelope*	At *Deptford.*
	St. Albans	
	Swallow	

Abſtract.

Abſtract.

Rate.	Number.
3d	14
4	24
6	2
Fireſhips	18
Yachts	3
	61

Of which, 38 were of the Line of Battel.

The Fleet being at the *Gunfleet*, and ready, in all reſpects, to proceed to Sea, his Lordſhip called a Council of War, and by a great Majority it was reſolved to continue there: But there were ſome, (particularly Sir *William Jennings*, who commanded a Ship of the Third Rate) who thought it much more Adviſeable to proceed over to the Coaſt of *Holland*, and there attend the coming forth of the *Dutch* Fleet. This laſt Propoſal did certainly carry great Weight with it, had there been a real Deſign of obſtructing His late Majeſty in his Paſſage to *England*; but inſtead of that, Matters were ſo concerted, and agreed among the Flag-Officers and Commanders,

A Council of War at the Gunfleet.

ders, (who had frequently private Meetings) that had the Admiral come fairly up with the *Dutch*, it would not have been in his Power to have done much againſt them; althô I have reaſon to believe, that, in ſuch caſe, his Lordſhip, and ſome of the Captains, would have done their utmoſt.

The Dutch Fleet paſſes by the Gunfleet. Things being at this paſs, the Ships of the States-General, commanded by Admiral *Herbert*, paſs'd by the *Gunfleet*, and ſome of the Tranſports with Soldiers, even within our ſight; while the *Engliſh* Fleet rid with their Yards and Topmaſts down, and could not, by reaſon of the Violence of the Wind, purchaſe their Anchors.

But althô the Wind kept us thus tied by the Noſe, yet was it very fair to carry the Prince to the *Downes*, and did from time to time favourably ſhift, till he arrived in *Torbay*, where he landed the 4th of *November*, with his Forces, which conſiſted not of above 14352 Men; but ſince (as I have been informed) his Highneſs was rather expected in ſome part of the North, it was ſome time before the Gentlemen of the Country could conveniently put themſelves into a condition of coming in to him; inſomuch that he called a Council of War, to conſider what was

The Dutch Forces land at Torbay.

moſt

moſt Adviſeable to be done, where his Return to *Holland* had like to have been determined. However, the Country came in by degrees, and King *James*'s Army thereupon deſerting, even by whole Regiments, and the beſt of his Officers alſo leaving him, while others ſhewed no great Inclination, more than the common Men, to Engage in his Quarrel, the Prince, by that means, marched, without Blood-ſhed, to *London*, and the unfortunate King, with his Queen, retired to *France* not long after.

But ſince this Matter has been already treated of by others, I ſhall return to the *Engliſh* Fleet, which, ſo ſoon as they could purchaſe their Anchors, put to Sea, and bent their Courſe Weſtward, and coming in few days off of *Torbay*, the *Dutch* Ships were there diſcover'd. We had not viewed them long, e're a Storm aroſe, and forced us out of the Channel; but returning thereinto in little time, and being again off of *Torbay*, we gave them an opportunity of ſeeing what our Strength might have enabled us to do, had our Inclinations been to treat them as Enemies. But the Prince being landed, and all Things favouring his Deſigns, the Admiral ſailed with the Fleet to Downes.

The English *Fleet ſails in queſt of the* Dutch.

The Engliſh *Fleet retires to the*

to the *Downes*, where ſeveral Officers, known, or at leaſt ſuſpected, to be *Roman* Catholicks, were diſmiſs'd from their Employments, which was follow'd by an humble Addreſs to his Highneſs: And not long after the Ships were diſperſed, ſome to the Yards to be laid up, others to be clean'd and refitted, while thoſe in the beſt condition for the Sea were appointed to neceſſary Services; and all poſſible diligence being made for an early Campaigne the next year, and particularly to prevent the *French* King's landing King *James*, and a Body of his own Troops in *Ireland*, Mr. *Herbert* (ſoon after created Earl of *Torrington*) was appointed Admiral of the Fleet the 14th of *March*, 168⅔, and coming to *Portſmouth* the 20th of that Month, found that the Ships ordered to join him from the Eaſt, lay Wind-bound in the *Downes*. The 20th of *April*, all the Ships deſign'd for the *Mediterranean* were added to him; and he having had notice, ſome days before, that King *James* was landed in *Ireland*, haſtened to that Coaſt with all the Strength he could poſſibly get together, in hopes to intercept his Convoy; the reſt he ordered to follow him, and to do it rather ſingly, than loſe time by ſtaying for one another; and

King William appoints Admiral Herbert Admiral of the Fleet.

and the Places appointed for conjunction were the Coaſt of *Ireland*, or 10 Leagues Weſt from *Scilly*.

Coming before *Cork* the 17th of *April*, 1689, with only 12 Ships of War, one Fireſhip, two Yachts, and two Smacks, he was informed that King *James* (who was conducted over by 22 Ships from *France*) Landed at *Kinſale* about two Months before. This led him to proceed firſt off of *Breſt*, and then to range to and fro in the *Soundings*, in hopes of meeting thoſe Ships; but failing therein, and returning to the *Iriſh* Coaſt the 29th of *April* in the Evening, he diſcovered off of *Kinſale*, a Fleet of 44 Sail, of which he loſt ſight the next Day; but judging them to be Weſtward of him, he bore away, with the Wind Eaſterly, for Cape *Clear*, and in the Evening ſaw them ſtanding into *Bantry* Bay. He lay off and on till Morning, and then ſtood towards them, having encreaſed his ſtrength to 19 Ships of War, but the *Dartmouth*, a ſmall Frigat, was one of the Number. The *French* were at Anchor, being 28 Ships of War, moſt of them from 60, to upwards of 70 Guns, and ſome of them bigger, with 5 Fireſhips; and the Tranſport-ſhips (which carried to *Ire-*

His Proceedings to the Coaſt of Ireland, and Engaging in Bantry Bay.

land about 5000 Men) were at ſome diſtance, plying to Windward.

Upon ſight of our Ships thoſe of the Enemy got under Sail, and when the Admiral had, with difficulty, worked up within two Miles of them, they bore down on him in a very orderly Line; and one of their Ships being within Muſket-ſhot of the *Defiance*, that led our Van, they two began the Fight, and the others as ſoon after as 'twas poſſible. Our Ships made ſeveral Boards, intending thereby to gain the Wind of the Enemy, or at leaſt to engage cloſer than they ſeem'd willing to do; but the Admiral finding he could do neither, and that it was not adviſeable to preſs on, in ſuch a manner, ſo unequal a Fight, he ſtretched off to Sea, not only to get his Ships into a Line, but to gain the Wind, if poſſible; but ſo very cautious were the *French* in bearing down, that he could meet with no opportunity of doing it; ſo that continuing the Fight, upon a ſtretch, till about Five in the Afternoon, the *French* Admiral Tackt, and ſtood away. Our Ships were ſo much diſabled in their Maſts and Rigging, that not half of them were in a condition, either to follow, or make any farther Attack; and undoubtedly the *French* were roughly handled.

handled. How far their Admiral was tied up by Orders I cannot learn, but certain it is, that he made the leaſt Uſe of the greateſt Advantage; for he had the Wind, and double the Force, beſides Fireſhips. Conſidering therefore all Circumſtances, and that moſt of our Ships were very ill Mann'd, we came off more fortunately than could reaſonably have been expected; for there was no more than 90 Men killed, and but 270 wounded: And Captain *George Aylmer* was the only Captain ſlain in this Action.

After this Diſpute was over, the Admiral repaired to his Rendezvous, 10 Leagues Weſt from *Scilly*, for he was in hopes of meeting there ſuch an additional Strength, as might have enabled him to proceed in ſearch of the *French*; but being diſappointed, he returned to *Spithead*, where Orders were lodg'd for the immediate fitting the Ships; and all ſuch as had not before join'd the Fleet, but were ſo far advanced as *Plimouth*, or *Scilly*, were remanded to *Spithead*, at which Place thoſe from the Eaſt were alſo directed to Rendezvous, till further Orders. *The Admiral returns to* Spithead.

Such diſpatch was made, that the Admiral arrived with the Fleet off of *Torbay* about the middle of *June*, and

not many Days after, ſeveral Ships of the States General reached *Spithead*, and with them their Admiral, and a Vice, and Rear Flag; and they, together with Mr. *Ruſſel* (then Admiral of the Blue) ſailed the 2d of *July* to join the Body, as did ſeveral others, as they came in, and received Orders ſo to do.

Vice-Admiral Killegrew ordered to join the Fleet.

Vice-Admiral *Killigrew* had been for ſome time with a Squadron off of *Dunkirk*, to keep the *French* Ships in at that Port; but he finding no more than four in *Flemiſh* Road, and three of them ſmall ones too, was alſo ordered to join the Fleet. All this little Squadron were Merchant Ships hired into the Service, except the *Kent*, a Third Rate, two ſmall Frigats, and two Fireſhips; and therefore they were diſpoſed of to ſeveral neceſſary Stations, becauſe they were in no wiſe proper for the Line of Battel.

The Admiral arrives again off the French Coaſt.

The Admiral cruized on the *French* Coaſt, and to and fro in the *Soundings*, without meeting any thing remarkable; and being, the latter end of *Auguſt*, in very great want of Beer, was obliged to come to *Torbay*; a Place very convenient for the refreſhment of the Fleet, though it does not altogether pleaſe People on ſhore, who (often without reaſon) think it a Loadſtone that does too much attract. And now the Winter Seaſon

Seaſon being too far advanced, to admit of keeping the Fleet at Sea in a Body, thoſe that wanted greateſt Repairs, eſpecially of the biggeſt Ships, were ordered into Port, and the remainder divided into Squadrons; of which Squadrons I come now to give ſome Account, and ſhall firſt mention that detached with Sir *George Rooke* in the Month of *May*.

The great Ships ſent in, and others divided on ſeveral Services.

The Admiral thought it for the Service to ſend Captain *Rooke* (now Sir *George*) with a Squadron of Ships to the Coaſt of *Ireland*, to aſſiſt the Generals of the Land Forces in the Reduction of that Kingdom. With part of that Squadron he arrived off of *Greenock* about the 10th of *May* 1689, and then ſent Orders to *Cheſter*, for the *Bonadventure*, and other Ships, to join him off of *Cantire*. That which firſt required his aſſiſtance, was the Relief of *Londonderry*, and therefore he determined to proceed thither ſo ſoon as the reſt of the Ships join'd him; for he had no more than the *Deptford*, *Antilope*, *Greyhound*, *Kingsfiſher* Ketch, and *Henrietta* Yacht. Being off of Cape *Cantire* the 22th, he received Advice from Captain *Young*, who commanded the King's Forces thereabouts, that a Body of Scotch were got together in the Iſlands *Geiga* and *Cara*, lying

Sir Geo. Rooke ſent with a Squadron to Ireland, and his Proceedings there.

lying on the North ſide of *Cantire*; wherefore he proceeded thither, and, with great Difficulty and Hazard, got his Ships in, and laid them to paſs; but the Enemy ſeeing Captain *Young* embarquing his Forces, got to their Boats in great confuſion, and ſo made their Eſcape.

The 8th of *June*, 1689. he fell in with the *Bonadventure*, *Swallow*, and *Dartmouth*, and a Fleet of Tranſport Ships with Major General *Kirk*, with whom he proceeded towards *Derry*, but was forced to, and detained at *Raughlin*'s Bay till the 12th. When he arrived with the Forces off of *Derry* Lough, he ordered the *Dartmouth*, *Greyhound*, and *Kingfiſher* Ketch, to follow the Major General's Orders, for they, being the ſmalleſt, were the only proper Ships to go up the River, and the King had before put the *Swallow*, a 4th Rate, under the Major General's Command; ſo that the *Deptford*, *Bonadventure*, *Portland*, and *Antelope*, lay off of the Harbour's Mouth, to aſſiſt upon any Occaſion, and to protect the Forces from Attempts by Sea.

A Conſultation about attacking London Derry.

The Major General being advanced near the Place, called a Council of War, the 19th of *June*, on board the *Swallow*, where was preſent Colonel *Stuart*, Colonel

lonel Sir *John Hanmer*, Lieutenant Colonel *St. John*, Lieutenant Colonel *Woolſeley*, Lieutenant Colonel *Dampier*, Lieutenant Colonel *De la Barte*, Lieutenant Colonel *Lundini*, Major *Rowe*, Major *Tiffin*, Major *Carville*, Major *Richards*, Enginier, Captain *Cornwall* of the *Swallow*, Captain *Leak* of the *Dartmouth*, Captain *Gillam* of the *Greyhound*, Captain *Sanderſon* of the *Henrietta* Yacht, and Capt. *Boys* of the *Kingfiſher* Ketch. They were almoſt aſſured, by the Intelligence received, that there was a Boom laid croſs the River, a little above *Brook-Hall*, at a Place called *Charles Fort*, and that the ſaid Boom was framed of a Chain and Cables, and floated with Timbers; and that at each end thereof there were Redoubts with heavy Cannon. They were alſo informed, That the ſides of that narrow River were Intrenched, and Lined with Muſquetiers, and that ſeveral Boats were ſunk, and Stockades drove in with great ſpikes of Iron: Nor was there any room to doubt of that part which related to the Cannon, for the *Greyhound* received conſiderable damage from them in going up the Day before: Wherefore it was reſolved to ſtay till their Force was augmented, and then, by making a Deſcent, to oblige the Enemy to raiſe the Siege.

In

In the mean time the Major General deſign'd to poſſeſs himſelf of the Iſland *Inch*, and therefore the Commadore took on board the Ships of War a Detachment with Col. *Stuart*, with whom arriving the 9th of *July* in *Lough Swilly*, he came to an Anchor near the Iſland, and the next Morning the Men were Landed. The Paſs from the Iſland to the Main was ſecured the 16th by two Redoubts, and a Battery of Cannon, on each ſide whereof the *Greyhound* and *Kingfiſher* Ketch were moored; and then the Commadore ſailed with the *Deptford*, *Bonadventure*, and *Portland*, towards *Lough Fuoyle*, met the Major General coming down with his Tranſports from *Kilmore*, in order to land the Forces on *Inch*; and being inform'd by him, That ſome *French* Ships of War had been on the Coaſt, and taken two ſmall *Scotch* Frigats off of *Carrickfergus*, and two *Engliſh* Veſſels near *Cantire*, and that they were gone from thence with ſome Forces to the Iſle of *Mull*, he immediately ſailed, and arrived at the ſaid Iſland the next day; but the *French* Ships departed thence 4 days before, and bent their Courſe for the South Coaſt of *Ireland*. The very Morning he arrived, a Battalion of about 400 Men were tranſported from the Iſland,

to

to the Main, and their Officers were following in two ſmall Veſſels; but ſeeing our Ships doubling the Land, they got on ſhoar, and ran up to the Mountains. After the Commadore had batter'd the Caſtle on the Iſland belonging to Commiſſary *Macklaine*, he ſailed, and the next morning, off of the Iſland *Ila*, met a ſmall Boat with an Expreſs from Duke *Hamilton*, giving him an Account of what had happened to the two *Scotch* Frigats; and that the *Iriſh* deſigned to tranſport more Forces from *Carreckfergus*; for which Reaſon his Grace deſired him to continue to cruize in that Station, to prevent them, which he accordingly did.

The Hardſhips the People of Derry ſuffered for want of Proviſions.

The 22d of *June* the *Portland* brought him a Letter from the Major General, adviſing him, that the Forces in *London-derry* were reduced to that Extremity, for want of Proviſions, that they had lived for ſome time on Hides, Dogs, and Cats: That he was returned from *Inch* with the *Swallow*, and three Victualling Ships, and was reſolved they ſhould attempt to get up to the Town, but believed the Countenance of ſome other of the Ships might be very ſerviceable. Upon this the Commadore left the *Bonadventure*, and *Portland*, in his Station, and with the *Deptford* and

Dart-

Dartmouth, proceeded towards the Major General, the laſt of which Ships he ſent up to *Kilmore* to receive his Orders, and then returned to the *Bonadventure* and *Portland*, with intention to continue there till the Arrival of the three Ships he expected from the Earl of *Torrington*, Admiral of the Fleet. By this Aſſiſtance the Supplies were ſafely convey'd to *Derry*, and the Siege of that Place was ſoon after raiſed: And about this time the King's Forces, commanded by Colonel *Berry* near *Linaskea*, had a Signal Victory over the Enemy; inſomuch that of the number killed by the Army, and what were knocked on the Head, in the Woods and Bogs, by the Country People, they loſt not leſs than 4000 Men; and their Cannon, and moſt of their ſurviving Officers, were taken, among whom was Major General *Mackartie*, who was ſhot through the Thigh, and run into the Back: But this being a Matter ſomewhat remote from the Buſineſs in hand, I ſhall dwell no longer on it.

Supplies ſent into London Derry, *and the Siege raiſed.*

A Victory obtained by the King's Forces near Linaskea.

Duke Schonberg *arrives in* Ireland *with Forces.*

Soon after the Commadore met the Duke of *Schonberg*, with the Tranſport Ships coming into *Bangor* Bay, in *Carrickfergus* Lough, where he landed part of his Army the ſame night; but many

ny of the Tranſports were wanting, and with them the *Charles* Galley, *Supply*, *Sandadoes*, *Dartmouth*, and *Pearl*; and therefore the *Portland* was ſent to the Iſle of *Man* in queſt of them.

The 25th of *Auguſt*, the Ships in the *Iriſh* Seas were diſpoſed of as follows:

Deptford.
Bonadventure.
Mary Galley.
Anthelope.
Supply.
Fanfan Sloop.
Anne Ketch.
Charity Ketch.
Kingfiſher Ketch.
Edward and Suſan Hoy.
— At *Carrickfergus*, before which Place the Army encamped the 20th, and it ſurrendred the 28th.

Dartmouth.
Princeſs Anne.
— At *Hylake*.

Charles Galley.
Greyhound.
Unity Ketch.
— Cruizing off of the Iſle of *Man*.

Pearl.
Henrietta Yacht.
Monmouth Yacht.
— Cruizing between *Dublin* and *Man*.

Portland.
Sandadoes.
Welcome Ketch.
— Off of Cape *Cantire*.

Swallow.
— With Major General *Kirke*.

The

The Squadron having continued at *Carrickfergus* ſome time, the Commadore was ordered by the General to take with him the *Deptford*, *Bonadventure*, *Mary* Galley, *Swallow*, *Portland*, *Anthelope*, *Dartmouth*, *Archangel*, *Sampſon*, *Scepter*, *Princeſs Anne*, *Hannibal*, *Smyrna Merchant*, *Supply*, *Greyhound*, and *Henrietta* Yacht, together with the *Kingfiſher*, *Anne*, *Unity*, and *Richard and Martha* Ketches, and to cruize with them off of *Kinſale* and *Corke*, or where he ſhould judge it moſt for the Service; and the General kept with him, at *Carrickfergus*, the *Charles* Galley, *Pearl*, *Saudadoes*, *Fanfan*, *St. Malo Merchant*, *Navy* Yacht, *Monmouth* Yacht, *Cleaveland* Yacht, *Dragon Sloop*, *Edward and Suſan* Hoy, *Charity* Ketch, *Seaventure* Hoy, and the *Proſperous* Ketch, which were put under Command of Captain *Roach* of the *Charles* Galley.

The Commadore ordered to cruize with part of the Squadron off of Kinſale *and* Corke.

The Commadore put to Sea, and endeavour'd all that poſſibly he could to get Southward, but was forced by bad Weather into *Bangor* Bay, where he received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to ſend all the hired Ships to *Hylake*. In his Paſſage from *Carrickfergus*, a ſtrong Southerly Wind took him, which forced him to bear up and Anchor at the *Skerrys*, about 12 Miles from

He is directed to ſend all the hired Men of War to Hylake.

from *Dublin*, and ſending the Yacht in for Intelligence of the Army, ſeveral Shot were fired at her from the Shore; whereupon he ordered the Ketches in, and manning all the Boats, landed about 200 Men, who beat out of the Town thoſe that pretended to defend it: But the Hills being covered with Horſe and Foot, he ordered the Seamen off, leſt they ſhould be expoſed; for they are a ſort of People far from being the moſt orderly in a Retreat: However, before they embarked, they either ſtav'd or brought off all the ſmall Veſſels and Fiſherboats.

The 16th of *September* the Commadore came into *Dublin* Bay, where he had thoughts to Anchor, and to ſend the Yacht and Ketches into the Harbour, to attempt the taking or burning the Ships and Veſſels; but the Wind viering out, and blowing hard, forced him away, ſo that arriving off of *Corke* the 18th, he ordered the Yacht, and the four Ketches, into the Harbour for Intelligence, and to aſſure the People of their Majeſties Protection, upon Submiſſion; but the obſtinate *Iriſh* having planted 14 or 15 Guns on both ſides the Harbour's Mouth, plied upon the Veſſels with great and ſmall Shot; notwithſtanding which they

The People of Corke oppoſe the Veſſels ſent into that Harbour by Sir Geo. Rooke.

proceeded, landed their Men, and took poſſeſſion of the Great Iſland: But the Ships being very foul, and in want of all Species of Proviſions, the Commadore was conſtrain'd to leave his Station, and came to the *Downes* the 13th of *October*, 1689, having loſt Company with all the Ships, on the *Iriſh* Coaſt, except the *Portland*.

Sir Geo. Rooke *arrives in the* Downs.

Vice-Admiral Killegrew *appointed to command a Squadron bound to the* Streights.

I now come to Vice-Admiral *Killegrew*, who, on the 28th of *December*, 1689, was appointed Admiral and Commander in Chief of a Squadron deſigned for the *Mediterranean*, which conſiſted of one Second Rate, four Thirds, ſeven Fourths, one Fifth, and two Fireſhips; with which (upon Admiral *Ruſſel*'s Arrival at *Spithead*, or ſo many of them as ſhould then be with him) he was to put himſelf under his Command, and to follow his Orders for proceeding to the *Streights*: But ſeveral things happened which prevented his getting timely ready to accompany the ſaid Admiral; as will be hereafter related.

Admiral Ruſſell *ordered to carry the Queen of* Spain *to the* Groine.

Admiral *Ruſſell* was appointed to convoy the Queen of *Spain* from *Holland* to the *Groine*; for which Expedition he was, as is already ſaid, to have ſome of the Ships of the *Mediterranean* Squadron, namely, the *Duke*, *Berwick*, and

and *Mountague*: And, that I may make my Account hang as orderly together as 'tis poſſible, I ſhall firſt relate that Matter, and afterwards let you know Vice-Admiral *Killegrew*'s Proceedings to and from the *Streights*.

The 24th of *November*, 1689, Mr. *Ruſſell* was ordered to proceed to *Uliſhing* in *Zeland*, with the *Duke*, a Second Rate, four Third Rates, two Fourths, and two Yachts, there to receive on board the Queen of *Spain* and her Retinue, and from thence to repair to *Spithead* for further Orders; and upon her Majeſty's coming on board, and during the whole time of her ſtay, he was ordered to wear the Union Flag at the Maintopmaſt Head; a thing never done before, in the Chanel, but by the Chief Admiral of the Fleet. *His Proceedings in that Expedition.*

He arrived off of *Uliſhing* the 12th of *December*, having been obliged to lie 24 hours on that Coaſt in ſuch hazey Weather, that 'twas impoſſible to make the Land; and the Queen took the very firſt opportunity to embark. From thence her Majeſty was brought to the *Downes*, where both her ſelf and Retinue were removed into more proper Ships; and the 24th of *January*, 1689, ſhe arrived at *St. Hellens*, from

whence the Admiral proceeded ſo ſoon as Winds would permit, but was forced back to *Torbay* the 23d of the next Month; as he was the 2d of *March*, after another Attempt to ſail: But at length getting clear, he had ſight of the *Groine* the 16th; and having put the Queen and her Attendance on ſhoar, and diſpatched what things were neceſſary to be done, he ſet Sail, but by contrary Winds was forced into the Harbour of *Ferola*, and in a violent Storm the *Duke*, a Second Rate, drove on ſhoar, but with great Care and Pains was luckily got off again, with little Damage. The Ships that were appointed for part of the *Mediterranean* Squadron he timely diſpatched to *Cadiz*; and then taking the firſt Opportunity of a Wind, reached *Plimouth* the 25th of *April*, 1690, with the remainder of his Ships, and arriving at *Portſmouth* the 28th, he there landed the Ladies, and other Perſons of Quality that attended the Queen of *Spain* in her Paſſage, who, if I gueſs right, did not meet with that Content and Satisfaction in the *Spaniſh* Court, which a Princeſs of her Birth and incomparable Perfections really deſerved.

And now I come to Admiral *Killegrew*, and to give an Account of his Pro-

Proceedings to, and in the *Mediterranean*, before I mention any thing of the Tranſactions of the Body of the Fleet at home the next year: And, in the firſt place, it may not be altogether improper to let you know, that he had the following Inſtructions for his Government in that Expedition. *Admiral Killegrew's Proceedings, from the time of his ſailing to the Streights, to that of his Return.*

I. When he arrived at *Cadiz* he was to ſend the *Happy Return* and *Oxford* (two Fourth Rate Ships) with the Trade to *Malaga* and *Alicant*, and to give them neceſſary Orders for their Return to *England* with the Merchant Ships. *His Inſtructions.*

II. At ſuch time as he judged it moſt convenient, he was to order the *Portland*, *Faulcon*, *Tiger*, and *Saphire*, to proceed with the Trade to *Genoua*, *Livorne*, *Naples*, aud *Meſſina*; and to ſee thoſe bound for *Gallipoly* and *Zant*, as near to thoſe Places as they could conveniently. The Ships of War were to keep together with the *Turkey* Ships to the Height of *Candia*; and there parting, the *Tiger* and *Faulcon* were to conduct thoſe bound to *Smirna* and *Conſtantinople*; but thoſe to *Smirna* firſt, and then the others within the *Dardanelli*: After which they were to return to and remain at *Smirna* 60 days. The other two Ships, the *Portland* and *Saphire*,

phire, were to convoy the Trade bound to *Scandaroon*, and to continue in that Port 60 days; and at the expiration of the aforeſaid time, they were reſpectively to ſail, with all the Trade that ſhould be ready, to *Miſſina*, the Place deſired by the *Turkey* Company for their Randezvous. But nevertheleſs it was left to the Admiral to give them other Directions, in caſe he judged it more for the Service, and to ſend them home with the Trade for *England*, in ſuch manner as (according to Intelligence) he ſhould think moſt for the Service.

III. Having diſpatched away theſe Convoys, he was, with the *Duke*, *Berwick*, *Reſolution*, *Mountague*, *Burford*, *Newcaſtle*, and *Greenwich*, together with the *Dutch* Ships appointed to join him, and the *Half-Moon* and *Cadiz* Merchant, Fireſhips, to attend the motion of the *French*, in a Body, and in ſuch manner as he judged might moſt conduce to the intercepting them, and the Safety of the Trade; and to attack them if he found himſelf of Strength ſufficient: But in caſe they happened to paſs the *Streights*, he was, upon the firſt Notice thereof, to follow them.

His ſailing from Torbay, *and Arrival at* Cadiz.

The 7th of *March*, 1690, he ſailed from *Torbay*, but arrived not at *Cadiz* till

till the 8th of the next Month; for he met with extream bad Weather, inſomuch that ſeveral of his Squadron were much ſhatterred, and two Ships of the States General unhappily foundred, one of 72, and the other of 60 Guns, having but one Maſt ſtanding between them, and that too but a Mizen. In repairing theſe Damages he met with no little Diſcouragement and Interruption from the then Governor of *Cadiz*, who on this, and all other occaſions, demonſtrated that he inclined ſomewhat to an Intereſt that ſuited not well with that of the Allies.

The Advices he received of the Thoulon Squadron.

The Admiral received, on the 9th of *May*, three ſeveral Expreſſes; one from the Conſul at *Alicant*, another from him who reſided at *Malaga*, and the third from Captain *Skelton*, who was with part of the Squadron at *Gibraltar*. They all adviſed him that the *Thoulon* Squadron, commanded by Monſieur *Chateau Renault*, was ſeen from thoſe Places, and that they conſiſted of 10 Sail, and three of them of 80 Guns each. A Council of War was thereupon called, and 'twas reſolved to ſail with as many Ships as were in a Condition, and to join the 6 *Engliſh* and *Dutch* that Captain *Skelton* had with him at *Gibraltar*, who was ordered not

Reſolution of a Council of War.

to attempt any thing till ſo joined; but to take eſpecial care for his Safety. Accordingly the Admiral ſailed the 10th, at 4 in the morning, with the *Engliſh* Ships following, *viz.* the *Duke*, *Mountague*, *Eagle*, *Tyger*, *Portland*, *Faulcon*, *Happy Return*, *Richmond*, and *Saphire*; being one Second Rate, two Thirds, four Fourths, and two Fifths, as alſo two Fireſhips, together with two Ships of the States General, called the *Gelderlandt* and *Zurickzee*, with which was Lieutenant-Admiral *Almonde*: But there was left behind a Third Rate, the *Reſolution*, and a Fourth Rate, named the *Newcaſtle*, as alſo a Prize taken by Captain *Bokenham* of the *Happy Return*, called the *Virgin's-Grace*; for they were not in a fit Condition for the Sea.

His Proceedings in ſearch of the French *Squadron.*

The 10th, at 11 at night, the Wind was at W. N. W. and the Squadron had then Cape *Traflegar* E. and by N. about 4 Leagues off. At 4 the next morning they ſteer'd away for the *Streights Mouth*, and had Cape *Spartell* S. W. diſtant about 6 Leagues, at which time the Admiral detached the *Portland* to *Gibraltar*, with Directions to Captain *Skelton* to get ready and join him. About one afternoon he got into the Bay, but continued plying in till

till the other Ships there could get up their Anchors; and at this time there came on board him three *Spaniſh* Gentlemen from the Governor of *Gibraltar*, with Advice from the Commander in Chief at *Ceuta*, a *Spaniſh* Garriſon on the *Barbary* Coaſt, that there had been ſeen the night before 14 Ships at Anchor in *Tetuan* Bay. The whole Squadron being now under Sail, conſiſting of one Second Rate, three Thirds, ſix Fourths, two Fifths, and two Fireſhips of the *Engliſh*, and five Ships of the *States General*, they ſtood over for *Ceuta* Point, with a fair Gale at Weſt, and there lay by all night. The next morning early the Admiral ſtood for the Bay of *Tetuan*, where he found only two Ships, the one at Anchor in the Weſt part of the Bay, the other under Sail about 2 Leagues Eaſtward of her. The latter got away, and put aboard the Colours of *Argier*; but the other, being imbayed, was taken by Vice-Admiral *Almonde*, and proved to be a *French* Ship bound to *Antegoa*. The Wind ſhifting to the E. S. E. a ſmall Gale, our Squadron ſtood over for the *Spaniſh* Shoar, and having *Ceuta* point W. N. W. about 2 Leagues off, the Men at the Maſt-head ſaw 10 Ships to the North, lying with their Heads Eaſtward.

The Thoulon Squadron diſcovered.

ward. Notice was given of this to Monſieur *Almonde*, who could not ſo ſoon diſcern them, becauſe he was about 2 Leagues Southward of our Ships, and in a very little time after the whole Squadron ſtretch'd over for *Gibraltar* Hill, the *Mountague* being ſent a-head to obſerve and give notice of the Enemy. At Eleven a Clock ſhe fell aſtern, her Captain having diſcover'd, and given Notice, that 4 Ships were under his Lee, ſo that all Endeavours were us'd to get up with them, and about One a Clock they were not above 2 Miles off; and it being then diſcerned that they run for't, our Squadron ſet their Top-gallant Sails, and crowded after them as much as 'twas poſſible; but the *French* Ships had the better Heels, for they were juſt clean'd, whereas ſome of ours had been 17 Months off of the Ground. The Chaſe was continued till Ten the next day, and then the *French* were about 4 Leagues a-head, and the *Dutch*, with ſeveral of the *Engliſh* Ships, near Hull-to a-ſtern; inſomuch that the Admiral had only the *Duke*, *Mountague*, *Eagle*, and *Portland* near him. Notwithſtanding this, Monſieur *Chateau Renault* kept on his way, having 13 Ships with him, *viz.* 6 Men of War, 5 Fireſhips, a Tartane, and

The Thoulon Squadron eſcapes.

and 3 Merchant Ships, and there being no proſpect of coming up with them, the Chaſe was given over; but, between 9 and 10 in the morning, the *Richmond* and *Tiger* put one of the Merchant Ships on Shoar, Weſtward of *Tarriffa*, and with great labour got her off. The Admiral lay by till Three a Clock, and then, the reſt of his Squadron coming up, he bore away for *Cadiz*, with a freſh Gale at Eaſt; but, by reaſon of contrary Winds, could not reach that place till the 21ſt. From thence he diſpatched away the ſeveral Convoys, namely, the *Tiger*, *Newcaſtle*, and *Oxford*, for *Smyrna*, commanded by Captain *Coal*; the *Portland*, *Greenwich*, and *Falcon*, to *Scandaroon*, under the Conduct of Captain *Ley*; and the *Saphire* and *Richmond* were appointed for *Malaga* and *Alicant*, under Command of Capt. *Bokenham*.

Our Ships repair to Cadiz, *from whence the Admiral ſends away the Trades up the* Streights.

This being done, and all things put in order for the Squadron's return for *England*, ſince the *French* Ships had paſſed the *Streights*, the Admiral ſet Sail, and in 35 days arrived at *Plimouth*, with one Second Rate and four Thirds of *Engliſh*, together with the *Virgin* Prize, and *Half-Moon*, and 6 *Dutch* Men of of War. At *Plimouth* he received Letters, lodged there from the Lords of the

Admiral Killegrew *arrives at* Plimouth.

He is adviſed to remain there, the French Fleet being in the Channel.

the Admiralty, by which he was informed, that the *French* Fleet had obliged ours to retire, and that they hover'd about *Rye*, *Dover*, and thoſe Parts; for which reaſon, he was adviſed to take care for the Security of his Squadron. This occaſion'd his calling a Council of War, where it was determined to proceed with the Ships into *Hamoze*; for 'twas judged they were not ſafe in the *Sound*, ſhould the *French* attempt them: Beſides, being great Ships, they could not run in at any time of the Tide: Nor were they in a capacity of putting forth to Sea, till ſuch time as they had taken in Water, Stores, and Proviſions. At this Conſultation there was Vice-Admiral *Killegrew*, Vice-Admiral *Almonde*, and Rear-Admiral *Evertſon*, as alſo Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, Rear-Admiral of the Red, who was arrived at *Plimouth* from the Coaſt of *Ireland*.

This being ſoon after the Engagement off of *Beachy*, which happened the 30th of *June*, 1690, between the two Fleets, commanded by the Earl of *Torrington*, and Monſieur *Tourville*, it naturally leads me to the giving the following Account of that Action, *viz.*

The

The Earl of *Torrington* being with the Fleet at *St. Hellens*, was not a little ſurprized at the Advice he received from *Weymouth*, that the *French* were ſo unexpectedly entred into the Channel; for ſo far was he (by all Intelligence received) from believing they were in that forwardneſs, that there was not many Scouts Weſtward to obſerve and bring an Account of their Motion: But this News was ſoon confirmed from many other Places, ſo that it was found high time to muſter up all Ships within reach, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*; and at leaſt to put them into the beſt condition that might be of Defence. His Lordſhip ſailed the 24th, early in the morning, with the Wind at E. N E. and ſtood to the S. E, the *French* Fleet having been ſeen by our Scouts the day before on the back of the Iſle of *Wight*.

The Earl of Torrington receives Advice of the French Fleet's being in the Channel.

His Proceedings thereupon.

Next day the Fleet was reinforced by the *Lion*, a Third Rate, and ſeveral *Dutch* Ships of War, and, with a N. E. Wind, were in ſight of the Enemy.

About 4 a Clock the next morning the Admiral ſtood towards the *French*, who were about 3 Leagues off, and thô, when the Wind ſhifted to the S. E. and S. E. by S, he tacked and ſtood Eaſtward, yet at 3 afternoon the whole Fleet went about, and ſtood Weſt-

Weſtward again. The *French* about this time took ſeveral People from the Shoar; and when they had puniſhed them for magnifying the Strength of our Fleet, they were diſmiſſed, with a Letter to the Admiral, (as I am informed) from Sir *William Jennings* (who commanded an *Engliſh* Ship of War at the Revolution, and now ſerved in no better a Poſt than that of third Captain to the *French* Admiral) promiſing Pardon to all Captains that would come in for King *James*.

A further Reinforcement arrived, of 7 *Dutch* Ships, with Admiral *Evertſen*, and another Flag Officer; but the two Fleets continued looking on each other, without Action, till the 30th; for the Admiral was not willing to engage till the Ships he expected from the Eaſt had joined him. But notwithſtanding the Enemy were ſo much ſuperior in Strength, as 70 odd Sail to 50, and that their Ships were of greater Rates, poſitive Orders were ſent to him from the Court to give them Battel: Whereupon, as ſoon as 'twas light, the Signal was put abroad for drawing into a Line; and that being done, the whole Fleet bore down on the Enemy, who were under Sail, by a Wind, with their Heads Northward.

Receives Orders to engage the Enemy.

At

At 8 in the morning the Signal was made for Battel, and the *French*, bracing their Head-Sails to the Maſt, lay by. About an hour after, the *Dutch* Squadron, which led the Van, began to engage part of the Van of the *French*; and half an hour after that, the *Engliſh* Blue Squadron encountred their Rear; but the greateſt part of the Red, which were in the Center, could not engage till near 10; and as they were then at a conſiderable diſtance from the Enemy, ſo was there a great opening between them and the *Dutch*. It was obſerved, that as our Ships bore down on the *French*, they lasked away, tho probably that was only to cloſe their Line; and afterwards ſeveral of their Ships tow'd round away with their Boats till they were out of Shot, inſomuch that there was great hopes the Advantage was, or would fall, on our ſide; but 'twas not long e're the *Dutch* appeared to have ſuffered very much, and chiefly by their being (for want of a neceſſary Precaution) weathered and ſurrounded, by thoſe *French* Ships which they left a-head of them when they began to engage.

An Account of the Engagement off of Beachy.

No ſooner did the Admiral perceive their Condition, but he ſent them Orders to chop to an Anchor, and with his

his own Ship, and many others, drove between them and the Enemy, and anchored about 5 in the afternoon, at which time it was calm; but judging it not ſafe to renew the Fight at ſo great a Diſadvantage, he weighed at 9 at night, and retired Eaſtward with the Tide of Flood.

Our Fleet retires Eaſtward, and the French purſue.

The 1ſt of *July*, 1690, in the afternoon, he called a Council of War, where it was reſolved to endeavour the Preſervation of the Fleet by retreating, and rather to deſtroy the diſabled Ships, if preſt by the Enemy, than to hazard another Engagement by protecting them. The *French* very indiſcreetly purſu'd in a formal Line of Battel; whereas had they left every Ship at liberty to do her utmoſt, our Fleet would undoubtedly have been more roughly handled, eſpecially thoſe Ships that were cripled in Fight, but each of ours ſhifting for her ſelf, (as 'tis natural to do in ſuch Caſes) and caution being had in anchoring moſt advantageouſly, with regard to the Tides, which the *French* took no notice of, we thereby got ground conſiderably of them. However they purſued as far as *Rye* Bay; and one of the *Engliſh* Ships, called the *Anne*, of 70 Guns, was run on ſhore near *Winchelſea*, having loſt all her

her Maſts, where two *French* Ships attempted to burn her; but the Captain ſaved them that labour, by precipitately ſetting fire to her himſelf.

The Body of the *French* Fleet ſtood in and out off of *Beorn* and *Penzey*, while about 14 more lay at Anchor near the Shoar, and ſome of them attempted to deſtroy a *Dutch* Ship of about 64 Guns, that lay dry at low Water in *Penzey* Bay; but her Commander did ſo well defend her, every high Water when they made their Attempts, that they at laſt thought it convenient to deſiſt; ſo that this Ship was got off, and ſafely carried to *Holland*; but it fared not ſo well with the three others of that Nation, which were on Shoar on the ſaid Coaſt, for their Officers and Men not being able to defend them, ſet them on fire; ſo that, with the three Ships burnt by the *French* in the Action, the States General loſt ſix of their Men of War.

On the 8th the *French* Fleet weighed, and ſtood towards their own Coaſt, but were ſeen the 27th following off of the *Berry* Head, and then, the Wind taking them ſhort, they put into *Torbay*. There they lay not long, for they were diſcover'd the 29th Eaſtward of *Plimouth*, at which Place very good *The French repair to their own Coaſt.*

Preparations were made, by Platforms and other Works, to give them a warm Reception. The 5th of *Auguſt* they appeared again off of the *Ram* Head, in number between 60 and 70, and ſtood Weſtward; which was the laſt time they were ſeen in the Chanel this Year.

Care taken to preſerve our Ships, had the Enemy come towards the River.

Our Fleet retreated towards the River of *Thames*, and then the Admiral going on Shoar, left the chief Command to Sir *John Aſhby*; but firſt gave Orders to Captain *Monck* of the *Phœnix*, together with four more Fifth Rates, and four Fireſhips, to Anchor above the narrow of the middle Grounds, and to appoint two of the Frigats to ride, one at the *Buoy of the Spits*, and the other at the lower end of the *Middle*, to take away the Buoys, and immediately to return and make the uſual Signal, if the Enemy approached: And in caſe they preſs'd yet farther on him, he was ordered to take away the Buoys near him, and to do what Service he could with the Fireſhips; but ſtill to retire, and to take up the Buoys in his way. This Apprehenſion was ſoon over, by the Enemy's drawing off, as is before-mentioned; ſo that the chief Thing to be done, was to put the Fleet into a condition to go to Sea again.

This

This unlucky Accident occaſioned various Reports and Conjectures, and the *Dutch* were very uneaſy upon account of the Damage they had ſuſtain'd; inſomuch that ſeveral Perſons of Quality were deputed, and ſent to *Sheer-neſs*, to examine throughly into the whole Matter upon Oath: And after the Earl of *Torrington* had continued Priſoner in the *Tower* ſeveral Months, he was at laſt Try'd, and unanimouſly Acquitted by a Court Marſhal, held at *Sheer-neſs* the 10th of *December*, where Sir *Ralph Delavall* precided, who acted as Vice-Admiral of the *Blue* in the Engagement: And if I miſtake not very much, this was the firſt time that ever an Admiral of the *Engliſh* Fleet was called to an Account in ſuch a manner.

Several Noblemen and others appointed to examine into the Action upon Oath.

The Earl of Torrington *Try'd at a Court Martial, and Acquitted.*

I now return to the Fleet, which, being in good forwardneſs, was put under the joint Command of Sir *Richard Haddock*, Mr. *Killegrew*, and Sir *John Aſhby*, who arrived in the *Downes* the 21ſt of *Auguſt*, and ſailing from thence the 25th, were join'd by Mr. *Killegrew* off of *Dover*, with the Ships he brought from the *Streights*, who had been confined at *Plimouth* by reaſon the *French* were in the Chanel, as has been before related; and the Fleet arriving at *Spithead* the 28th, the Admirals received

The Fleet put under the Command of Sir Ric. Haddock, *Admiral* Killegrew, *&* Sir John Aſhby.

Inſtructions in what manner to proceed, and to take the Ships hereafter mentioned under their Command; but they were then diſperſed at the ſeveral Places expreſs'd againſt their Names, *viz.*

	Rate.	Ships.	Where.
The Strength of the deſigned Fleet.	1 ——	*Sovereign* ——	
	2 ——	*Sandwich.*	
		Coronation.	
		Dutcheſs.	
		Royal Katherine.	
		Neptune.	
		Duke.	
		Oſſory.	
	3 ——	*Captain.*	
		Grafton.	
		Defiance.	At *Spithead.*
		Elizabeth.	
		Berwick.	
		Hope.	
		Breda.	
		Edgar.	
		Hampton-Court.	
		Expedition.	
		Suffolk.	
		Sterling-Caſtle.	
		Reſtauration.	
		Lenox. ——	

3— *War-*

Rate.	Ships.	Where.
3	*Warſpight.*	At *Spithead.*
	Cambridge.	
	Exeter.	
	Kent.	
	Northumberland.	
	Monmouth.	
	Eſſex.	
	Swiftſure.	
	Reſolution.	
	Eagle.	
	Burford.	
	Montagne.	
2	*St. Michael*	At *Blackſtakes.*
3	*Harwich*	At the *Nore.*
	Modena hir'd	In *Longreach.*
4	*Sampſon* hir'd	At the *Nore.*
	Woolf hir'd	In *Longreach.*
	Charles Galley	Gone to *Holland.*
	Dragon	In *Longreach.*
Fireſhip,	*Hopewell*	At *Deptford.*
6	*Saudadoes*	At *Spithead.*
	Salamander.	
	Fubs Yacht.	
Fireſhips,	*Griffin.*	
	Cadiz Merchant.	
	Charles	

Rate.	Ships.	*Where.*
Fireſhips,	*Hunter* —— *Owners Love.* *Woolf.* *Vulture.* *Hound.* *Pellican* ——	At *Spithead.*

So that the whole Fleet, beſides *Dutch*, was 43, Great and Small, *viz.* 1 Firſt Rate, 8 Seconds, 28 Thirds, 4 Fourths, 3 Sixths, and 10 Fireſhips, of which, all but Eight were with them, and they were all ordered to be Victualled at *Portſmouth*, as follows; The Firſt and Second Rates to the 12th of *October*, and the Third Rates, and under, to the 16th of that Month, having at this time on board them the Earl of *Marlborough*, General of His Majeſty's Forces, with upwards of 5000 Soldiers, bound to *Ireland*.

The great Ships ſent about to Chatham.

But the Winter Seaſon advancing, the Admirals were directed to ſend the great Ships about to *Chatham*, which were the *Sovereign*, *Duke*, *Coronation*, *Dutcheſs*, *Sandwich*, *Neptune*, *Oſſory*, and *Royal Katherine*; ſo that they were themſelves obliged to go on board the *Kent*, a Ship of the Third Rate.

Pro-

Proviſions alſo fell very ſhort; nor was there a little want of good Seamen to navigate the Ships: However they put to Sea, purſuant to the Commands they received from the King, and arrived before *Cork* Harbour the 21ſt of *September* in the afternoon, where they Anchor'd; for the Tide of Flood being done, the Pilots would not venture in. The next day they weighed, and, it being calm, towed in towards the Harbour's Mouth, from the Larboard ſide whereof they received ſeveral Shot from a ſmall Battery of 8 Guns; but ſome of the Ships fired at them, and two or three of the Boats were ſent on Shoar to attack them, ſo that in little time they were forced from their Guns, which were diſmounted, and their Carriages thrown into the Sea; and then the whole Fleet got in without farther interruption.

A Scarcity of Seamen and Proviſions.

The Admirals proceed to, and arrive in Ireland.

The next day, between two and three in the morning, the greateſt part of the Soldiers were put into proper Veſſels, and ſent up to a Place called *Paſſage*, and in the afternoon the reſt, together with the Marines, were landed.

Proceedings againſt Cork.

The day following, about 5 or 600 Seamen, Gunners, Carpenters, *&c.* were alſo put on Shoar, who were very uſeful in drawing up the Cannon to batter,

the Town; and the Powder and Shot taken out of the great Ships at *Portſmouth*, was made uſe of for recruiting the Army.

The City of Cork taken.

The 25th, before day, 10 Pinnaces were ſent up with Armed Men, and Granadoes, to aſſiſt in attacking the Town; and the Admirals were put in hopes by the Earl of *Marlborough*, that it would be in the King's Poſſeſſion in three or four days, as indeed it was; for it was taken the 29th.

The Fleet ordered by the King to return to the Downes, *but ſome Ships left at* Cork *under Command of the Duke of* Grafton.

The next day the King commanded the Admirals to return to the *Downes* with the Fleet, and to leave behind them ſuch Ships only as were needful for receiving the Marine Soldiers. For this Service they left ſeven Third Rates, one Fifth, one Sixth, the *Owners Love* Fireſhip, and a Tender to each Ship, under the Command of the Duke of *Grafton*, then in a Ship called after his own Title, and with the reſt of the Fleet they arrived in the *Downes* the 8th of *October*, bringing with them, by the Earl of *Marlborough*'s Deſire, Colonel *Maculficot*, who was Governor of *Cork*, the Earls of *Tyrone* and *Clancarty*, Lord *Carr*, Colonel *Owen Macarty*, Lieutenant Colonel *Rycot*, Major *Macarty*, and Captain *Muſſy*; and having diſpoſed of the Fleet, according to the Lords of the Admi-

Priſoners ſent from Ireland *by the Earl of* Marlborough.

Admiralty's Orders, by ſending ſome to the *Nore* with Sir *Ralph Delaval*, others to *Portſmouth* and *Plimouth*, and leaving the reſt with Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* in the *Downes*, they went on Shoar.

Not long after they parted from *Cork*, his Grace the Duke of *Grafton* was unfortunately wounded there with a Muſket Shot from the Walls, when he was ſhewing his wonted Bravery and Zeal, by encouraging the Seamen on Shoar, and labouring as much as any of them at the great Guns. His Lordſhip languiſhed ſome days of this Wound, and then dying, and Captain *Tennent* being blown up in the *Breda*, a Third Rate, in *Cork* Harbour, the Command of the Squadron regularly fell to Captain *John Croſſe* of the *Charles* Galley; and ſo ſoon as they had taken on board the General, together with the Soldiers, Marines, and Priſoners, they left *Ireland*, and arrived in the *Downes* the 17th of *October*. *The Duke of Grafton killed at Cork.*

Thus ended the Expedition with the Body of the Fleet: And now it may not be improper to ſay ſomething concerning the Squadron with Sir *Cloudeſly Shovel*, who had been cruizing in the *Soundings*, and on the Coaſt of *Ireland*, between the Months of *December* and *July*,

July; and convoyed His Majeſty from *Hylake* the 10th of *June*, from whoſe Hand he was honoured (and not undeſervedly) with a Commiſſion, appointing him Rear-Admiral of the Blue.

I have already acquainted you, That he arrived from the Coaſt of *Ireland* the beginning of *July*, 1690. and that he was prevented in joining the Fleet, by reaſon the *French* were to the Eaſtward of him. And on the 10th of *July* His Majeſty having received Information, that the Enemy intended to ſend upwards of 20 ſmall Frigats, the biggeſt of not above 36 Guns, into St. *George*'s Chanel, to burn the Tranſport Ships, he was ordered to cruize off of *Scilly*, or in ſuch Station as he ſhould judge moſt proper for preventing that Deſign, and to ſend Frigats to ply Eaſtward and Weſtward, to gain Intelligence of the Body of the *French* Fleet; that ſo he might be the better able to provide for his own Safety: And they, upon Meeting with Vice-Admiral *Kellegrew* in his Return from the *Streights*, were to give him notice of all Circumſtances; that ſo he might likewiſe take Care not to be intercepted.

Sir Cloudeſly Shovell's *Proceedings with a Squadron in the* Soundings.

He cruized up and down in the aforeſaid Station till the 21ſt of *July*, without

out meeting any thing remarkable; and then the *Dover* and *Experiment* join'd him from the Coaſt of *Ireland*, with a Ketch that came out of *Kinſale*, on board of which Veſſel was Colonel *Hacket*, Captain *John Hamilton*, *Archibal Cockburne* Eſq; *Anthony Thompſon* Eſq; Captain *Thomas Power*, Mr. *William Sutton*, and ſix Servants, who were following King *James* to *France*, in order to their accompanying him in his intended Expedition to *England*. They gave an Account, That His Majeſty took Shipping at *Duncannon*, and ſailed to *Kinſale*; but that, not ſtaying there above two hours, he proceeded to *France*, with two *French* Frigats that had lain for that purpoſe a conſiderable time; and that he carried with him the Lord *Powis*, Sir *Roger Strickland*, and Captain *Richard Trevanion*.

King James his embarking from Ireland for France.

The 21ſt of *July* he received Orders to ſail, with the Ships under his Command, to *Kinſale*, to intercept ſeveral *French* Frigats ſaid to be there; and being in the excution of thoſe Orders, near the River of *Waterford*, he had Notice from the Shoar, that the Town had been ſurrendred two or three days before; but that upon ſummoning *Duncannon* Caſtle, they refuſed all Conditions offer'd to them. Hereupon he ſent

Sir Cloudeſly Shovell ordered to proceed to Kinſale.

ſent Major-General *Kirke* word, that he was ready to aſſiſt him with ſome Frigats in attacking that Caſtle, and accordingly Matters being agreed on, he went in with the *Experiment* and *Greyhound*, and all the Boats of the Squadron: But after the Caſtle had made ſome fire on them, they let the Major-General know, they would ſurrender on his Terms; ſo that the next day, being the 28th of *July*, Governor *Bourk* marched out with about 250 Men, with their Arms and Baggage, and left 42 Guns mounted in the Caſtle. Here the Rear-Admiral had Advice, that all the *French* Ships that had been on the Coaſt of *Ireland* were ſailed to *Lymerick*, as alſo all the Privateers and Merchant Ships, in order to ſecure the Retreat of their Army, if they ſhould attempt another Battel, and be routed: And the Lords of the Admiralty being informed, that they were gone from *Limerick* to *Galloway*, there to embark for *France*, upon a Squadron of Ships that ſailed from the former Port, reinforced by Monſieur *Anfreville* with ſome Ships of the Fleet, they ordered the Admirals to ſend to Sir *Cloudeſly* at *Plimouth*, (where he was arrived with part of his Squadron) four Third Rates, four Fourths, three Fifths,

Duncannon Caſtle ſurrendred.

Fifths, and four new Fireſhips, which, joined to thoſe with him, would compoſe a Squadron of five Third Rates, ten Fourths, eight Fifths, and ſix Fireſhips; And with theſe he was ordered in queſt of the Enemy: But other preſſing Services ſuddenly calling for the Ships, Orders were ſent to him, purſuant to the King's Commands, the 18th of *September*, to detach 10 of them into the *Soundings*, for Security of the Trade, and to repair to the *Downs* with the Remainder: Purſuant hereunto he left, under Command of Captain *Carter*, (who, with ſeveral Ships, had joined him) three Third Rates, four Fourths, and three Fifths; and being himſelf off of the *Blaskets*, got advice, that the *French* Fleet had been gone from *Galloway* about a week; but that there ſtill remained 5 Sail at that Place. Upon this he ſent two Frigats thither, not thinking it proper to go in with the whole Squadron, becauſe 'tis a deep Bay, and that a number of Ships cannot get out, but with an Eaſterly Wind. Thoſe two Frigats returned to him the 26th, and brought the following Account, That on the 14th of *September* Monſieur *Amphreville* ſailed from *Galloway*, with about 60 Ships and Veſſels, whereof 18 were Men of War: That

Monſieur Amphreville's ſailing from Galloway, and carrying Lord Tyrconnell, and others with him to France.

That they took with them only a few ſick Men, beſides the Earl of *Tyrconnel*, Mr. *Fitz James*, (natural Son to King *James*) *Buſſlo*, late Governor of *Lymerick*, and about 3 or 400 *Iriſh*: That on the 15th they were joined by the *Grand Monarch*, and 11 more Capital Ships, which had been in the *Shannon* near a week, and could not get to *Galway*; and that thoſe Ships, having notice of our Squadron's coming, ſteer'd away right into the Sea, and came not near the Coaſt of *Ireland*, although there was little reaſon to apprehend Danger, conſidering their Strength.

Sir Cloudeſly Shovell *arrives in the* Downes.

The 10th of *October* Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* arrived in the *Downes* with part of his Squadron, having appointed the remainder on neceſſary Services; and there he met with Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, to proceed to *Plimouth* with all the Ships that were in a condition for the Sea, and from that Port to take others, with which he was to cruize in the *Soundings*, for Security of the Trade. Having gathered together what Ships he could, he proceeded with them to *Plimouth*, and left that port the 3d of *December*; and in the *Soundings* chaſed ſeveral Ships, but could not come up with them, becauſe thoſe he had with him

He is ſent out again; and cruizes for ſome time in the Soundings.

were

were foul. At length the *Deptford* and *Crown* took a ſmall *French* Man of War, of 18 Guns and 10 Patereroes, called the *Frippone*, who had before fought 4 *Dutch* Privateers, and received conſiderable Damage, and had 30 of her Men killed and wounded: Her Captain's Name was *St. Marca*, who, with the Lieutenant, was wounded, and her Maſter killed: She fought very obſtinately, and yielded not till the *Crown* ſhot away her Mainmaſt, and boarded her.

The Rear-Admiral having ended his Cruize, ſent ſome of the Ships to the Coaſt of *Ireland*, and others into the *Soundings*; and arrived himſelf in the *Downes* the middle of *January*, from whence he attended His Majeſty to *Holland*, in the Squadron commanded by Sir *George Rooke*.

He returns to the Downes.

The Expedition in the Year 1690. ending thus, I ſhall now begin with the Tranſactions of the grand Fleet the next Year; and after that relate what remarkable Paſſages happened, as to ſeparate Squadrons, or otherwiſe.

The Earl of Orford appointed Admiral of the Fleet: And what Inſtructions were given him.

The 23d of *December*, 1690. Mr. *Ruſſell* (now Earl of *Orford*) was appointed Admiral of the Fleet; and greateſt Diligence being uſed in order to an early Campaign, he had Inſtructions to

to ſail to ſuch Stations on the *French* Coaſt, as might be moſt proper for annoying the Enemy, and protecting the Trade; but he was particularly directed, not to leave the *Downs* till join'd by 20 *Dutch* Ships of War, or at leaſt 18, and that he had appointed a Squadron to look after the *French* Ships at *Dunkirk*, with the Commander in Chief of which Squadron he was to leave Inſtructions how to join the Fleet upon occaſion. But here I muſt obſerve, that although he was thus empower'd to proceed, from time to time, in ſuch manner as might beſt enable him to deſtroy the Enemy, either by Sea or Land, without expecting particular Orders; yet was it expreſſly provided for, That if bad Weather render'd it unſafe for him to keep the Sea, he ſhould repair to, and remain at *Torbay* till farther Order; the Conſequences of which Reſtraint was not, I am apt to think, ſo throughly conſider'd of as it ought to have been.

With theſe Inſtructions he received a Liſt of the Ships and Veſſels appointed for the main Fleet, the Rates and Numbers whereof were as follows: *Viz.*

Rates.

Rate.	*Number.*
1	5
2	11
3	32
4	9
5	4
6	3
Fireſhips	20
Hoſpital Ships	4
Sloop	1
Brigantine	1
Yacht	1
	91

The Strength of the Fleet.

Of which, 57 were of the Line of Battel, beſides the *Dutch*, whoſe Quota generally was 5 to 8.

The Fleet being Victuall'd, and indifferently well Mann'd, the Admiral had Orders from the Queen, dated the 7th of *May*, to proceed into the *Soundings*, provided the *Dutch* Ships were joined him, and that he thought it proper to venture the great Ships there at ſuch a Seaſon of the Year. From the *Soundings* he was to detach a conſiderable number of Ships and Fireſhips to *Galloway* in *Ireland*, either to impede the *French* in landing Succours, or to de-

Ordered into the Soundings.

The Admiral ordered to ſend a Squadron to Galloway to intercept French Succours.

deſtroy them, if in that Harbour; and it was left to his Diſcretion to lie with the Body of the Fleet in ſuch Station, as that this Detachment might moſt readily join him, to prevent the ill Conſequences that would have attended his being attack'd by the *French*, when ſeparated.

Althô the Admiral thought it not Adviſeable to venture the Fleet ſo early to Sea, yet he declar'd his Readineſs to proceed, if 'twas Her Majeſty's Poſitive Commands he ſhould. He did not approve of ſending any conſiderable Squadron to *Galloway*, becauſe many Accidents might have hindred their joining the Fleet, the Conſequence whereof, ſhould the *French* have attack'd him, he judg'd of the laſt Importance, and that it carried greater Weight than the reducing *Ireland* that Summer; but yet he had no Objection to the ſending ſome Ships thither, if Her Majeſty was ſatisfied that the *French* were ſo backward in their Naval Preparations, as that her Fleet might with ſafety be ſeparated.

His Reaſons for not ſending a Squadron to Galloway.

He was likewiſe unwilling (and that with Reaſon too) that *Dunkirk* ſhould be left unregarded, till the uncertain arrival of other *Dutch* Ships; and his particular Reaſons were, 'That the River's

As alſo for not leaving Dunkirk *unregarded.*

'ver's Mouth would be left open to 'the *French*; That the Fiſhery on all 'the Coaſt would be thereby expoſed, 'and *Newcaſtle* not only be liable to 'be block'd up, but an Opportunity 'put into the Enemy's hands to ſink 'Veſſels at the Bar of that Harbour, 'ſo as that no Ships of Burthen would 'be able to float over it.

Nothing was wanting now but a fair Wind to enable him to ſail from the *Nore*; and before he received theſe Orders from the Queen, he had thoughts of *Torbay* for the Place of Rendezvous, till ſomewhat more of this Month was paſt: But being now Commanded to repair forthwith into the *Soundings*, he judg'd Cape *Clear* the moſt proper Place, ſince he might more conveniently ſend Frigats from thence to *Kinſale*, for Intelligence from the Lords Juſtices of *Ireland*.

Cape Clear appointed the Rendezvous, and the Reaſon thereof.

Before I proceed farther, it may not be altogether improper to mention here ſome Reaſons which induced Her Majeſty to ſend the Admiral theſe Inſtructions. They were grounded upon Intelligence received from *Holland*, dated the 21ſt of *April*, That Recruits were deſign'd from *France* to *Ireland* in near 200 Ships, and that about 150 of them were at *Bell* Iſle, the Rendezvous for them

Intelligence of Recruits going from France to Ireland.

them all, as well as the 25 Men of War deſign'd their Convoy, of which, five were ſaid to be at the Iſle of *Day*, from 50 to 60 Guns: And it was farther reported, That thoſe Tranſports were loaden with all Things neceſſary for the Subſiſtence and Cloathing of Men, with a conſiderable Sum of Money to pay the Army commanded by Monſieur *St. Ruth.*

The Line of Battel fixed. The Fleet being now, for the moſt part, got together, the Admiral compoſed a Line of Battel, an Abſtract whereof follows.

Squadron.	*Diviſion.*	*Rates of Ships.* 1ſt.	2d.	3d.	4th.	*Small Craft.*
Blue.	Vice-Admiral	1	2	5	2	One 6th Rate, 4 Frigats.
	Admiral	0	3	5	1	Two 6th Rates, 3 Fireſhips, 2 Hoſpital Ships, one Bomb.
	Rear-Admiral	1	1	6	1	Three Fireſhips.
Red.	Rear-Admiral	0	2	6	1	Three Fireſhips.
	Admiral	2	1	5	2	One 5th Rate, one 6th Rate, 3 Fireſhips, 2 Hoſpitals, 1 Yacht.
	Vice-Admiral	1	2	5	2	Three Fireſhips, and ſmall Frigats.

Dutch.

Squadron.		N°.	*Small Craft.*
Dutch.	Of 92 Guns	3	One of 14 Guns, one of 16, two Fireſhips.
	84	1	
	76	2	
	72	2	
	70	1	
	64	5	
	50	3	

So that of *Engliſh* and *Dutch* there were 74 Ships of the Line, beſides others that the Admiral to the States-General expected, and that there was ſome probability at leaſt would join the Fleet.

It cannot be ſaid that the Fleet was ſo well Mann'd as could have been wiſh'd, though great care had been taken, and the Nation put to an extraordinary Expence in Tenders, and other Methods for impreſting and entertaining Men. One thing that gave no little obſtruction (beſides the numerous Protections) was the Proclamation forbidding the preſſing Men from the Colliers, which encourag'd ſick Men, ſo ſoon as they could crawl from their Quarters, to ſcramble up to *London*; and, for the ſake of greater Wages, enter themſelves on a *Newcaſtle* Voyage, *Interruptions in the timely Manning the Fleet.*

and that without any regard to their being made Run, and thereby loſing all they had earn'd in the Publick Service. Beſides this, there were many Letters ſcatter'd, by ill meaning Perſons, among the Ships, adviſing the Sailers to run away; ſo that no Remedy remain'd to cure this Diſeaſe, but recalling the aforeſaid Proclamation, or keeping the Men on board, when Sick, and ſuffering them to die miſerably. Many more obſtructions there were to the timely Manning the Fleet, but the chiefeſt was the extravagant Wages given to Seamen by the Merchants, who, for lucre thereof, ſculk'd up and down till ſuch time as their Ships were ready to proceed; So that very great Numbers, even of the beſt Seamen, were by this means render'd uſeleſs to the Publick; An Evil that I hope will in time be remedied; for not only That, but proper Meaſures for the more ſpeedy procuring, and afterwards obliging Seamen, do very much deſerve the moſt ſerious Conſideration.

The 10th of *May* 1691, the Admiral was acquainted, that there was reaſon to apprehend the *French* did not only intend to ſend Ammunition and other Inſtruments of War to *Ireland*, but alſo to tranſport a conſiderable Number of

Iriſh

Iriſh from thence to *Scotland*; and that therefore it was Her Majeſty's pleaſure he ſhould endeavour to intercept them in their paſſage to *Galloway*, or to deſtroy them in that Harbour; for which reaſon the Queen commanded him to ſend the Fleet to *St. Hellens*, or *Spithead*, and to repair himſelf immediately to Town, and attend Her Majeſty, that ſo this, and all other Affairs relating to the Expedition, might be maturely conſidered of: And Her Majeſty concurring with him, that *Dunkirk* ought not to be neglected, ordered him to take care, before the Fleet ſailed, for blocking up that Port, if the *Dutch* Ships that were expected there did not timely arrive.

The Admiral ordered to ſend the Fleet to St. Hellens, *and to come to Town to be adviſed with.*

When he return'd to the Fleet he had Orders to ſend a Detachment up the *Iriſh* Chanel (as he himſelf had propos'd) to cruize upon the Coaſt of *Scotland* without *Cantire*, that ſo they might prevent the *French* tranſporting any Forces from *Ireland* to *Scotland*; and he was inform'd, that the *Dublin* Letters of the 13th gave an Account, that the *French* were not then arrived in that Kingdom, but that if a late Report from a *Dane* was true, 'twas very probable they were there by this time; ſo that it was preſſingly recommended to him to haſten to *Galloway*, and endeavour

He is ordered to ſend ſome Ships to intercept Forces from Ireland *to* Scotland.

deavour to deſtroy the Ships before they could unlade, and receive the Soldiers that were to embarque.

The Fleet could not ſail till join'd by the Ships off of Dunkirk

This Order would have been immediately complied with, but that the Fleet could not well ſtir from the *Downes* till join'd by the Squadron off of *Dunkirk*, for ſeveral of them were of the Line of Battle: But ſince the falling of the Tides would prevent the *French* Ships getting out of that Port, ours were ſoon expected thence, and when they arrived, the Admiral purpoſed to ſend thither a Squadron of 10 Ships, *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, ſuch a Number being all he could well ſpare, ſo as to have the Fleet of any conſiderable ſtrength; but it was his Opinion, that they would not be ſufficient, and therefore he deſired the Lords of the Admiralty to ſtrengthen them. When he diſcourſed the *Dutch* Admiral about this Affair, he found him not willing to comply therewith, for he alledged that he had poſitive Orders from the King, not to part with any of his Ships till his number was 36, of which no more than 28 (even at this time of the Year) were yet arrived. This put Matters under ſome difficulties; for the leaving ſo many Ships out of the *Engliſh* Fleet would very much weaken it, and there-

The Reaſons why the Dutch Admiral did not ſpare Ships for Dunkirk

fore

fore it was deſired that Admiral *Almond*'s Orders might be ſo far diſpenced with, as to allow of his leaving a proportionable Number of *Dutch* Ships to join with ours; which might have been the rather granted, becauſe they would have opportunity of returning to the Fleet, ſo ſoon as Minheer *Toll* arrived with the Squadron deſigned for *Dunkirk*.

To this the Admiral received an Anſwer, That Her Majeſty had no Advice from the King, that the *Dutch* Admiral had Orders not to part with any of his Ships till he had 36, but that She had writ to His Majeſty, that He would be pleaſed to ſend Orders from *Holland* to Admiral *Almond* to follow his Directions. And now the Queen was pleaſed to command, that the Fleet ſhould proceed, as ſoon as 'twas poſſible, according to Her former Inſtructions, without ſtaying for the return of the *Dunkirk* Squadron; and withal directed, that if the *Dutch* Admiral would appoint four or five Ships to join ours off of that Port, Orders ſhould be left for thoſe that were to return from thence to make the beſt of their way to the Fleet; but that if the ſaid *Dutch* Admiral could not conſent to leave ſuch a Number of Ships, a fitting

The Queen orders him to ſail as ſoon as poſſible, without ſtaying for the Dunkirk *Ships.*

fitting Squadron of *Engliſh* ſhould be detached, and Orders be left, that when any *Dutch* Ships arrived there, ſo many *Engliſh* ſhould repair to the Fleet: And that there might not be a want of Ships for this Service, Orders were lodg'd in the *Downes*, for ſuch *Dutch* Men of War as ſhould arrive after the Fleet's ſailing thence, to proceed and join the *Engliſh* off of *Dunkirk*, of which Admiral *Almond* was acquainted, that ſo he might leave the like Orders, leſt the *Dutch* Captains ſhould ſcruple to obey, before they had actually join'd the Fleet.

A Propoſal made for deſtroying Dunkirk, *but not attempted.*

Much about this time a Propoſal was made for burning the Port of *Dunkirk*, which the Admiral was directed to communicate to the Commander in chief of the Squadron appointed to lie off of that Place, and to leave behind him two Fireſhips to be employ'd on that Service; but it was not thought adviſeable to put the Project in practice this Summer.

The 20th of *May* the Fleet was ready, and the Admiral intended to ſail the next Morning from the *Downes* to *Torbay*, and to leave orders for Mr. *Churchill* to follow him thither, with the Squadron under his Command off of *Dunkirk*: To ſupply the place of which Ships, he appointed three Third Rates,

two

two of the beſt ſailing Fourths, and a Fireſhip, to join with thoſe three the *Dutch* Admiral was prevailed with to leave; by which Detachment, and the Three ſent to *Ireland*, Eight Ships of Force were taken from the *Engliſh*.

A South-weſt Wind prevented the Fleet's ſailing, as was intended; and now the Vice Admiral of *Zeeland*, and three *Dutch* Ships, were ſeen coming to join the Fleet; for which reaſon, and that if the Wind continued as it was but one Day longer, the Ships off of *Dunkirk* that were reliev'd by others more proper, might alſo join, the Admiral alter'd his Reſolution of calling at *Torbay*, and the 22d of *May* he received the Queen's Orders for proceeding with the Fleet before *Breſt*, which broke the Meaſures he had propoſed to take; for he intended to have gone firſt 10 Leagues off of *Breſt*, from thence 60 Leagues right into the Sea, and ſo to have fallen in with Cape *Clear* at his return; for it was generally believed, that the *French* would firſt come to *Bell* Iſle to get Intelligence, by which means, in their traverſe home, our Fleet might luckily have gain'd ſight of them. He was in doubt, that if the Fleet continued off of *Breſt* till Mr. *Aylmer*'s arrival with the Homeward bound *Smirna* Ships

The Fleet ordered off of Breſt, *which altered the Admiral's Meaſures.*

Ships, (which was very uncertain) the Men, by their long continuance at Sea, without refreſhment, would fall ſick. But notwithſtanding theſe reaſonable Objections, he aſſured Her Majeſty, that he would punctually obey Her Commands; and that thô he wiſh'd for nothing ſo much, as meeting the whole *French* Force with the Fleet he then had, yet he earneſtly deſired that no Intelligence, or Motive whatever, might prevail with Her Majeſty to take any conſiderable Number of Ships from him.

The Fleet ſails, but is forced back to the Downes.

The Fleet ſailed the 23d of *May* in the Morning, but being got as far Weſtward as the *Neſſe*, were forced back to the *Downes* with a hard Gale at S. W; and ſoon after there came News from *Dublin*, that the *French* were arrived in the *Shannon* with 100 Sail of Tranſports, and that the Men of War, their Convoy, cruiz'd between the *Shannon* and *Galloway*; whereupon Her Majeſty ſignify'd Her Pleaſure to the Admiral, that ſo ſoon as he had left a Squadron for *Dunkirk*, agreeable to what he propoſed, the Fleet ſhould forthwith repair off of *Breſt*, and that a Frigat ſhould be ſent to *Kinſale*, to learn from the Lords Juſtices, whether the *French* were gone to *Scotland*, or in what

Further Orders from the Queen for the Fleets ſailing off of Breſt.

what manner they proceeded: And if, upon ſuch Intelligence, he judged they might be deſtroy'd in *Ireland*, or prevented in going to *Scotland*, he was to ſend a Detachment either to the Weſt of *Ireland*, or through *St. George*'s Channel to *Scotland*, with Orders to return to the Fleet, when they ſhould have done their utmoſt in the performance of that Service.

The Admiral ordered to ſend a Detachment to Ire'and, to deſtroy French Ships.

It was likewiſe recommended to him to get the beſt Information he could of the Body of the *French* Fleet, and to have a particular Regard to the Safety of the Trade expected from *Smirna*. And he was directed to order the Ships on the *Iriſh* Coaſt to return to the Fleet, ſo ſoon as the Services they were employ'd on would admit thereof; and frequently to ſend for Orders at *Kinſale*: And when he ſhould think it convenient to come from *Breſt*, he was to repair to Cape *Clear*, and to ſend notice, by the way of *Kinſale*, of his Arrival: But it was again recommended to him, to remain before *Breſt*, or thereabouts, if Wind and Weather would permit, till the *Smirna* Fleet arrived, and as long time after as he ſhould judge neceſſary for the good of the Service. And although it was repreſented to him what advantages might be taken againſt *Galloway* by Sea,

The Care of the Smirna Fleet recommended to him.

Sea, yet Her Majeſty let him know, She was not willing to have it attempted, till ſuch time as the Army had made thoſe Advances which might enable them to attack it alſo by Land.

There was at this time Advice that the *French* intended to come out of *Dunkirk* the next Spring Tide, which he was deſired to communicate to Captain *Bokenham*, who commanded the Squadron there, and withal to conſider with the Flag Officers, the Project for burning that Port, and to give Inſtructions accordingly. But how little effect any Attempt of this kind would have had, was ſufficiently ſhewn ſome Years after, when the Crown was, to little or no purpoſe, put to a very conſiderable Expence in an Expedition againſt that Place; of which I ſhall give a more particular Account in its proper time.

The News of the D. of Berwick's being gone to Scotland contradicted.

The 1ſt of *June*, the Admiral was acquainted, that 'twas hop'd there would be no occaſion for ſending Ships to *Scotland*, ſince the News of the Duke of *Berwick*'s being gone thither was contradicted, as alſo the Cauſe of the Report, which was the ſight of ſeveral Ships off of *Sligo*. He was alſo inform'd, that Mr. *d' Cardonnell* of *Southampton* had been aſſured by the Maſter and Seamen of a *French* Prize, that all

all their Fleet, fitted out at *Breſt*, (except four not ready) were gone to *Bell* Iſle, and that the Ships of *Rochfort* and *Thoulon* had join'd them there, as it was ſuppoſed 15 Galleys from *Rochfort*, and as many more from *Havredegrace* had alſo done.

Advice that the French Fleet Rendezvous'd at Bell Iſle.

This News of the *French* Fleet's being gone to *Bell* Iſle, gave the Admiral no little Satisfaction, for he was in hopes it might luckily occaſion his meeting them; and he was of Opinion, that they would naturally chuſe to hazzard a Battel, rather than remain at *Breſt*, and expoſe themſelves to be attempted in that Harbour; a Jealouſie whereof was probably infuſed into them, not only by Monſieur *du Queſne*, but by Monſieur *Gennes* alſo, who were not long before in *England*, and one, or both, conſulted with about this Affair, and the latter ſome time after found an Opportunity of conveying himſelf to *France*, that ſo he might be able to communicate what he had heard relating to this Affair at the *Engliſh* Court. There were other Reaſons alſo to ſuſpect that our Deſigns had taken Air; for ſeveral things that were contain'd, even in the Queen's Inſtructions to the Admiral, were hinted at in the *French* Gazette.

Not

The Admiral is informed that the French *Squadron was gone back from* Ireland; *And therefore is adviſed to ſail as ſoon as poſſible off of* Breſt.

Not many Days after, the Admiral received advice from Court, that the *French* Squadron was certainly gone back from *Ireland*, and that, in all probability, the Tranſports would get clear of that Kingdom before our Fleet could arrive; and therefore he was adviſed to ſail to *Breſt*, *Bell* Iſle, or thoſe Parts; and the rather, for that the *French* Fleet's attempting our *Smirna* Ships might prove of ill Conſequence to *England* and *Holland*. To this were added the following Reaſons; That ſhould the *French* Fleet be in *Breſt* they might be block'd up there; their Trade be interrupted, and ours ſecured; and that if Intelligence could be gain'd they had ſet out a Squadron, with intention to intercept our *Smirna* Fleet, a Detachment might be better ſent from thence in queſt of them.

Captain *Toll* was now arrived off of *Dunkirk* with the *Dutch* Ships, but 'twas judg'd the Squadron would be too weak to awe the *French* Ships in that Port; ſo that a Council of War being called, it was reſolved, That they ſhould be ſtrengthned by four Ships, in regard Admiral *Almonde* had now his number of 36, and that he was therefore willing to make a Detachment for this Service. But notwithſtanding, Captain

Toll

Toll was ordered to join the *Engliſh* Ships, he rid before *Newport*, and writ to his Admiral for Directions how he ſhould proceed, who ſent a Frigat with poſitive Orders to him to act in conjuction with our Ships.

The Weather to this very time was ſo Tempeſtuous, that the Fleet could not ſtir from the *Downes* with any manner of Safety; but that they might be the better able to do Service, when at Sea, the Admiral thought it neceſſary to take notice a Second time, that he was ty'd up by the Queen's Inſtructions, to lie off of *Breſt* till the *Smirna* Fleet arrived, and deſired that Matter might be explain'd; for that if the *French* Fleet was out, it was his Opinion they ought to be followed to *Bell* Iſle, or any other Place. In anſwer to this he was acquainted, That it was not intended he ſhould be tied up by thoſe Inſtructions ſo much as he imagin'd, thô ſeveral Lords of the Council had made the very ſame Objections, but were ſatisfy'd upon the Orders being read and explain'd to them.

The Admiral takes notice that the Queen's Orders obliged him to lie off of Breſt *till the* Smirna *Fleet arrived.*

The Weather began now to be fair, ſo that he determined to Tide it Weſtward, and to leave for the *Dunkirk* Squadron 2 *Engliſh* Ships of 60 Guns each, 3 of 50, and one of 56, with a Fireſhip,

and a Sloop; and of the *Dutch*, five of 50 Guns, one of 54, one of 32, one of 40, one of 36, one of 34, one of 26, one of 24, and another of 20, making in all 21 Sail. Accordingly he sailed; and being the 14th of *June* 6 Leagues S. E. from the *Isle of Wight*, it was by a Council of War of the Flag Officers agreed, that the Station should be 8 Leagues West from *Ushant*, and that from thence some Ships should be detached, to look into *Brest*, and bring Intelligence. The 19th of *June*, though the Wind had been continually contrary (as it was all along from the time the Fleet first arrived in the *Downes*) he got off of *Plimouth*, but by bad Weather was forced back to *Torbay*; and now he received a Letter from Mr. *Aylmer* (dated off of Cape *St. Vincent*) by which he judged the *Smirna* Fleet was in *Ireland*, or at least very near the *Soundings*.

The Fleet sails a second time from the Downes.

The Admiral receives advice of the Smirna *Fleet.*

The Weather being fair, the Fleet weighed the 22d of *June*, and off of *Dartmouth* an Express came from Mr. *Greenhill*, then Naval-Agent at *Plimouth*, with advice, That the *French* were at Sea with 80 Sail; so that all diligence was used to get over to the *French* Coast, and on the 28th (*Ushant* being E. S. E. 9 Leagues distant) some Fishermen were taken from the Shore, who

And,

Of the French *being at Sea with* 80 *Sail.*

who confirmed the News, and ſaid the *French* Fleet had lain becalmed four Days off of that Iſland. Upon this the Flag Officers were conſulted, and 'twas reſolved to ſtand over to Cape *Clear* for the Preſervation of the *Turky* Fleet, and not meeting with News there, immediately to return to *Breſt*; and the Place of Rendezvous was appointed 6 Leagues Weſt from *Scilly* with a Weſterly wind.

A Council of War unanimouſly reſolve to ſtand over to Cape Clear.

There was at this time a Project on foot to join ſome Ships to the *Spaniſh Armada* (as that Nation call their Inſignificant Fleet) in the *Streights*, that Monarch having offer'd not only to fit out 10, (ſuch as they were) but condeſcended alſo not to expect or give Salutes, or to have the Command in Chief in thoſe Seas; ſo that all things were to be conferred at a Council of War, and each Nation to do the beſt they could for the Publick Good; but though His Majeſty did not think fit to determine any thing in this Matter, till ſuch time as it could be ſeen what ſucceſs might be had againſt the *French* in theſe Parts; yet afterwards a very conſiderable part of the Naval Force of *England* and *Holland*, was ſent thither, under the Command of Mr. *Ruſſel*, at which time the *French*, with many Ships from *Breſt*, and their whole *Thoulon* Squadron,

A Project for joining ſome of our Ships to act with the Spaniſh Armada *in the* Streights.

were endeavouring to make their utmoſt Efforts in the *Streights*, and had enter'd, with their Land Forces, on the Confines of *Catalonia*; which Expedition ſhall be particularly treated of in its proper place.

The Fleet being now at Sea, ſuch care was taken to preſerve the *Smirna* Trade, that ſingle Ships were appointed to cruize for them on every proper Point of the Compaſs, while the Body croſs'd over to Cape *Clear*; and being come off of *Kinſale* they were found ſafely arrived there. Mr. *Aylmer*, who commanded the Squadron, was ordered by the Admiral to come out and join him, and 'twas reſolved to conduct them as far as *Scilly*, and there to leave them, if they had a fair Wind, to proceed up the Chanel: But that they might not run the leaſt Hazard, a Frigat was ſent before to *Plimouth*, to bring him advice, eight Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, whether any of the Enemy's Ships were on the Coaſt. The Admiral had determined, upon parting with this Trade, to go off of *Uſhant*, and if the *French* were gone from thence, to follow them to *Bell* Iſle: But being afterwards of opinion, that they lay in the Sea purpoſely to avoid us, he altered his Reſolutions, and

The Fleet joins the Smirna *Convoy off of* Kinſale.

and reſolved to go into a more proper Station in ſearch of them; ſo that parting with the *Smirna* Ships off of *Scilly* the 13th of *July*, he firſt bent his courſe towards the *French* Coaſt, from whence he ſent a Letter to the Secretary of State, deſiring that it might be conſidered, whether the Fleet, before its return, could be ſerviceable towards the Reduction of *Ireland*, for that the Proviſions would laſt no longer than the latter end of *Auguſt*, and after that Month was expired, he thought it not ſafe for the great Ships to be out of Harbour; but he deſired that Recruits of Proviſions might be ready at *Plimouth*, that ſo the want thereof might not incapacitate the Fleet to perform any neceſſary Service.

The Smirna Convoy parted with, and the Fleet proceeds off of the French Coaſt.

No ſooner was *Uſhant* diſcovered from the Maſthead, but Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* was ſent with a Squadron to look into *Breſt*, and the Fleet followed at a convenient diſtance. When he was about a League from St. *Matthew's* Point, he ſaw about 40 Sail coming out of *Breſt*, which proved to be *Brittons*, with three Men of War of about 36 or 40 Guns; and one of them ſtanding to the Leeward of him, he ſhot down her Main-yard, but ſhe, putting before the Wind, eſcaped through the Rocks

Sir Cloudeſly Shovell ordered with a Squadron to look into Breſt.

And gets Intelligence of the French Fleet.

called the *Chickens*, where the *French* Pilots on board our Ships did not think fit to venture. He got Intelligence that the *French* Fleet had been at Sea near 40 Days, that not above a Week before, a Ship of 80 Guns ſailed from *Breſt* to join them, and that a Water Ship had not been long come in, that left them about 40 Leagues Weſtward of *Uſſhant*, where, and up and down in the *Soundings*, 'twas reported they had been ever ſince they went out.

Sir Cloudeſly Shovell decoys ſeveral French Ships, by putting abroad White Colours.

Sir *Cloudeſly*, to decoy the aforemention'd Ships, ſtood in with part of his Squadron under *French* Colours, the others having none at all; and the *French* in thoſe Parts being informed, that their Fleet had taken ſeveral *Engliſh* Ships, believ'd their Admiral had ſent them home, ſo that they were coming out to meet them, imagining that our Ships which ſhew'd *French* Colours were their own Men of War, and that thoſe without Colours were their Prizes; but finding their Miſtake, every one ſhifted for himſelf in the beſt manner he could. At this time the Marqueſs of *Carmarthen*, in his Sloop, took out of a Boat two Men who were going off, as they thought, to viſit their Friends. Theſe Men reported the *French* Fleet to be 84 Ships of the Line

Line of Battel, which tho the Admiral thought to be almoſt impoſſible, yet, the Wind being fair, he made the beſt of his way to be an Eye-witneſs thereof, having ordered the Rendezvous, in caſe of Separation, to be 10 Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, and for any Ships in diſtreſs, by bad Weather or otherwiſe, *Torbay* or *Plimouth*.

The 27th of this Month of *July*, the Fleet being about 30 Leagues from *Uſhant*, ſeveral Veſſels were ſeen under Convoy of a Man of War, and two Ships ſuppos'd to be Fireſhips; and it was reaſonable to believe by their working, that they took us for the *French* Fleet, which we endeavoured to confirm them in, by ſhewing White Flags and Colours; but one of our Captains being too forward in chaſing, gave the Alarm, ſo that only three of the ſmall Veſſels fell into our hands. This Convoy was going to their Fleet with freſh Proviſions; and the Priſoners reported they conſiſted of 76 Sail, from 50 to 100 Guns, and 30 Fireſhips; That they lay 60 Leagues Weſt, or W. S. W. from *Uſhant*, the very Place where our Fleet was at this time, tho none of our Scouts could get ſight of them; which created a Belief of what the Priſoners ſaid, That

Several French Ships and Veſſels ſeen 30 Leagues from Uſhant, and ſome of them taken, who gave an Account of their Fleet.

No probability of coming up with the Enemy, who induſtriouſly avoided us.

Monſieur *Tourville* their Admiral had Directions from his Maſter to avoid us; in order whereunto, they kept their Scouts at a conſiderable diſtance from their Fleet, on all Points of the Compaſs by which they could be approached, and being chas'd by ours they ran away, and made Signals to others that lay within them; ſo that 'twas impoſſible to come up with their Body, altho' the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Fleets ſailed in ſuch a Poſture, as that the Scouts on each Wing, and thoſe a-head and a-ſtern, could, in clear Weather, ſee 20 Leagues round.

The Admiral therefore finding that all Methods for coming up with the Enemy prov'd ineffectual, writ home, deſiring to know how he ſhould proceed with the Fleet; for tho' he thought it not Adviſeable, while the *French* were out, to Anchor in any Bay, yet he fear'd the continuing ſo long at Sea might very much endanger the Health of the Men; for it had not been cuſtomary with us to furniſh them with ſuch Refreſhments at Sea, as the *French* conſtantly did; nor was it indeed equally in our Power ſo to do, by reaſon of the Remoteneſs of our Ports.

The 29th of *July* Her Majeſty ſent Directions to the Admiral, That in caſe the

the *French* Fleet were not at Sea, or that they remain'd in ſuch a Station where prudently he could not attack them, he ſhould forthwith repair to the Coaſt of *Ireland*, for Security of the Merchant Ships; but left him at liberty to come to *Kinſale* Road to refreſh the Men, or to remain in ſuch Station near that Place, where he ſhould judge the Fleet might be moſt ſafe, and in greateſt readineſs to execute Orders.

The Fleet ordered to the Coaſt of Ireland, *and the Reaſon thereof.*

The chief occaſion of this Order for proceeding on the *Iriſh* Coaſt, was the King's Succeſs in that Kingdom, which was ſo great, that His Majeſty thought he might employ a conſiderable part of his Army this Year on a Deſcent in *France*; but it was to be given out, that the Preparations were for *Flanders*. It was judged, that this would not only give a Diverſion to the Enemy, but probably induce them to venture a Battel at Sea to prevent it; ſo that it was thought requiſite for the Fleet to be on the *Iriſh* Coaſt, not only to protect ſuch a Tranſport, but to aſſiſt in it too, by taking on board Soldiers that otherwiſe could not be embark'd. But in regard the Troops could not be ready in leſs than 3 Weeks, the Admiral was adviſed not to leave the *French* Coaſt, ſo as to neglect an opportunity of Fight-

Fighting, which probably he would either ſoon have, or not at all this Summer.

Several Privateers get out of Dunkirk *and do Miſchief Northward.*

About this time 15 or 16 Privateers got out of *Dunkirk*, and ranging along the Northern Coaſt, under Command of Monſieur *Du Bart*, landed in *Northumberland*, where they burnt a Houſe of the Lord *Withrington*'s, and did ſome other unaccountable Miſchiefs.

The Fleet having continued in the Station, 60 Leagues W. S. W. from *Uſhant*, three days longer than was determined by the Council of War, in hopes the *French* might come there, the Admiral left the ſaid Station the 31ſt of *July*, and once more ſtood for *Uſhant*: And that he might be the better enabled to keep the Sea, he ordered the Veſſels with Beer at *Plimouth* to come to him 8 Leagues Weſt from the ſaid Iſland, there being a great Want of that Specie in the *Engliſh* Ships, and the *Dutch* had no more Proviſions than what would laſt to the 20th of *Auguſt*.

Three days after the Admiral left the Station, he ordered ſome Ships to chaſe off of *Uſhant*, of which number that commanded by the Marqueſs of *Carmarthen* was one, and his Lordſhip's Sloop being alſo in Company, ſaw 110 Sail, or thereabouts, in *Broad Sound*, which

which they took to be the *French* Fleet going into *Breſt*, as indeed it proved afterwards to be. This being made known to the Admiral, a Council of War was call'd the 5th of *Auguſt*, where it was reſolved, That ſince the Winds hung Weſterly, and that both *Engliſh* and *Dutch* wanted Water and Beer, 'twas neceſſary to ſail for *Torbay*, to recruit and refreſh the Men, who had been two Months at Sea, where, when he arrived, the neceſſary Orders were given for putting every Ship into a ſpeedy Condition for Service: But there was a great Want of Men by reaſon of Sickneſs; and the Supplies of Proviſions did not anſwer Expectation; nor had the *Dutch*, with what they met here, more than would laſt to the latter end of *September*.

The French Fleet get into Breſt.

Our Fleet comes to Torbay for Proviſions.

The Admiral having repreſented to the Queen ſome Difficulties that aroſe to him, with reſpect to the ſeveral Services required by Her Majeſty's Orders, the ſame were explain'd to him: As Firſt, That the going with the Fleet upon the *French* Coaſt was repeated to him, leſt the Appointment of the other Services might look like a Revocation of that, and conſequently an Opportunity of Fighting be thereby prevented. But that, Secondly, in regard ſuch an Opportunity

Her Majeſty's Orders explained.

portunity might not, at that Seaſon of the Year, be met with, the next Concern was for the Trade coming from the *Weſt-Indies*: And that, Thirdly, 'twas neceſſary ſome Care ſhould be taken of the Tranſports with the Troops from *Ireland*: Which latter depending on the hop'd-for Succeſs at *Limerick*, it would conſequently be the laſt Service, in order of Time: But that, however, Her Majeſty left it to his Choice, to place the Fleet in ſuch a Station as might beſt anſwer theſe Ends, becauſe, as a Seaman, he could beſt judge of it, and that it greatly depended upon the Intelligence he might have from *Breſt*, with relation to the *French* Fleet, or from the Sea off of the Coaſt of *Ireland*, which probably the *Weſt-India* Ships would firſt make; or from *Kinſale*, whence he might have the earlieſt Notice of the Tranſports intended from that Kingdom. But in regard he thought it neceſſary the Three-deck'd Ships ſhould be ſent home at the expiration of this Month, Her Majeſty was pleaſed to Approve thereof, and directed that they ſhould be accordingly ſent to *Spithead*.

Soon

Soon after this, he received a Letter from the Lords of the *Admiralty*, by which, not only his own, but the Opinion of the Flag-Officers, was deſired, How long it might be convenient to keep the Fleet at Sea in a Body? How long they might be ventured at Sea, in caſe the *French* did not Diſarm their Ships, or the Queen's Service ſhould require ſo great a Fleet? And when the great Ships could no longer keep the Sea, where they might with moſt ſafety remain, for ſome time, before they were laid up, and be ready to join the reſt of the Fleet, in caſe the *French* ſhould come upon our Coaſt? Whereupon a Council of War was called the 19th of *Auguſt*, 1691, where were preſent the Flag Officers following, *viz.*

The Lords of the Admiralty demand how long it may be Adviſeable to keep the Fleet out in a Body, &c.

A Council of War called.

Engliſh.

Admiral *Ruſſell.*
Admiral *Killegrew.*
Vice-Admiral *Aſhby.*
Vice-Admiral *Delavall.*
Rear-Admiral *Rooke.*
Rear-Admiral *Shovell.*

Dutch.

Dutch.

Admiral *Almonde.*
Vice-Admiral *Vandeputte.*
Vice-Admiral *Callemberg.*
Rear-Admiral *Evertſen.*

Who taking the ſeveral Particulars into Conſideration, determined that the following Anſwers ſhould be made thereunto, *viz.*

I. That it was not convenient for Her Majeſty's Service to continue at Sea with the Fleet longer than the laſt of *Auguſt.*

II. But that if the Service did abſolutely require their continuing out longer, the utmoſt Time for their keeping out ought not to exceed the 10th of *September.*

III. That when the great Ships could no longer keep the Sea, the propereſt Place for them to remain at for farther Orders, was *Spithead.*

And it was alſo Agreed, That between 10 and 20 Leagues W. S. W. from *Scilly*, was the moſt proper Station for the Fleet to lie in, to do Service.

This

This Reſolution of the Flag Officers being communicated to the Queen in Council, Her Majeſty was pleas'd to let the Admiral know, *That altho' ſhe had, by former Orders, ſufficiently informed him what Services She expected from the Fleet, yet ſince the* French *were now in* Camaret *Bay, and that probably he might have an opportunity of attacking them, She thought it ought not to be neglected; and the rather, for that it was reaſonable to believe, the Attempt might be made before the Expiration of the Time the Council of War had limitted for ſending home the great Ships. However, Her Majeſty conſidering the Seaſon of the Year, which was far advanced, and other Accidents at Sea, (not to be foreſeen or judged of at Land) did not think fit poſitively to Command the Fleet's returning before* Breſt, *but declared She would be ſatisfied with the Reſolution of a Council of War in that Matter; altho' She thought nothing ſo Deſireable, or ſo much for the Publick Intereſt as a Battel, could it be attempted without too great Hazard on the* French *Coaſt.*

Her Majeſty's Pleaſure ſignified upon the Reſult of a Council of War.

The Admiral returned an Anſwer to Her Majeſty the 24th, and withal obſerved, that he had no Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to obey either the King's or Her Majeſty's Commands, *and conſequently to remain in Torbay till further Order.*

The Admiral takes notice, that he is ordered by the Admiralty Order.

as

as my Lord *Torrington* formerly had, when he Commanded the Fleet; not any Orders from their Lordſhips contradictory to their firſt Inſtructions, (altho' he had ſeveral times writ to them on that Subject) which directed him at his return to *Torbay*, to remain there till farther Orders; and that altho', upon conſidering the Contents of the foregoing Letter from the Secretary of State, he had once reſolved to ſail; yet in regard of the Hazard, and the Inconveniencies he might be expoſed to, he did not think it ſafe for him to carry the Fleet to Sea without Sailing Orders. The day after he had diſpatched this Anſwer he called a Council of War, who came to the following Reſolutions, in relation to the attacking the *French* Fleet in *Camoret* Bay.

A Council of War debate about attacking the French *in* Camoret *Bay.*

'That altho' the *French* Fleet was 'there, yet conſidering the Scarcity of 'Proviſions, and the bad Weather that 'might be expected at this Seaſon of 'the Year, it was in no wiſe Adviſe-'able to make any Attempt upon them 'there.

They alſo adhered to their former Opinions, 'That the moſt proper Sta-'tion for the Fleet to lie in, was 10 or '20 Leagues W. S. W. from *Scilly*; and

'that

'that they ought not to continue in a 'Body longer than the laſt of this Month, 'unleſs there ſhould be an abſolute ne-'ceſſity; and if ſo, not beyond the 10th 'of *September*. But it was thought ne-'ceſſary (if Wind and Weather would 'permit) to go before *Uſhant*, (and 'not *Breſt*) that the *French* might know 'we were at Sea, and then forthwith 'to return to the Station off of *Scilly*.

Nor were they inſenſible, 'That a 'Battel would be of great Advantage to 'the Publick, but wiſhed the Enemy 'would give the Opportunity, without 'putting the Fleet under hazard of De-'ſtruction, by attempting them in their 'Harbours at the approach of the 'Winter Seaſon.

And upon debating what Squadron of Ships ought to be kept at Sea, after ſending in thoſe of three Decks, it was found, 'That none of the Ships of the 'States General could continue out; for 'their Proviſions would laſt no longer 'than the 20th of *September*, and His 'Majeſty's Orders requir'd their returning 'then to *Holland*: So that if the Queen 'expected their longer ſtay, there wanted 'Orders from His Majeſty for the ſame, 'as well as for their Re-victualling; for 'the King being Stadtholder of that 'Country, their Admirals received all

'their Inſtructions immediately from 'him.

'But notwithſtanding it was the Opi-'nion of the Council of War, that there 'was an abſolute Neceſſity for a Squa-'dron to be kept abroad, and that if a 'ſufficient quantity of Victuals could be 'provided, a Detachment of proper 'Ships might be made for a Month; 'yet they were cautious in adviſing the 'Number, not knowing what ſtrength 'the *French* would have at Sea.

The Admiralty order the Fleet to Sea, and to lie in a proper Station to meet the French *Fleet, and ſecure the Trade.*

The 25th of *Auguſt*, the Admiral received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, prepared in obedience to Her Majeſty's Pleaſure, ſignify'd at the Cabinet Council, whereby he was directed forthwith to proceed to Sea, and to lie in ſuch a Station as he judged moſt proper, as well for meeting with the *French* Fleet, ſhould they come out again, as the Security of the Homeward-bound Trade, the Ships in the *Shannon*, and the intercepting Succours from *France* to *Ireland*: But when the Firſt and Second Rates could be no longer continu'd with Safety at Sea, he was to order them to *Spithead*, and there to remain till further Directions, firſt appointing the Ships of ſmaller Rates (both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*) that were in condition, to cruize till the 30th of *September* (if their Proviſions

viſions would laſt ſo long) in the moſt proper Station for anſwering the three laſt Services before-mention'd; which Station their Lordſhips were of opinion ought to be between 20 and 30 Leagues S. W. off of Cape *Clear*, though they thought fit to leave that Matter to his Diſcretion. He was alſo further directed, at his return with the great Ships, to appoint three of the *Engliſh* Flag Officers to remain with the Cruizing-Squadron, and to order the Commander in chief, at the expiration of his Cruize, to bring home with him the Ships of War in the *Shannon*.

Purſuant to theſe Orders, the Admiral put to Sea with the very firſt opportunity of a Wind, and on the 31ſt of *Auguſt*, about 10 in the Morning, made the Land of *Uſhant*. The Fleet ſtood in till ſix that Night, and then, being but four Leagues from the Shore, tackt and laid it off with an eaſie Sail till break of Day, at which time they ſtood in again. At 12 at Noon, being about three Leagues from the Land, and ſeeing nothing like a Sail, he bent his courſe for the *Lizard*, 10 Leagues W. S. W. from which place was the appointed Station. *The Fleet ſails.*

Had the *French* inclined to a Battel, a fairer Opportunity than this could

not have been given them; for they might have had the Advantage of the Weather-Gage on their own Coaſt.

The Fleet was now in great want of Beer, which obliged the Admiral to deſire that ſome Veſſels might be ſent to *Kinſale* with a ſupply, that a ſtop might be put to the Inconvenience and Clamour which otherwiſe would attend the Mens drinking Water in the Winter; and he repreſented it as his own Thought, That without a preſent Proſpect of doing Service, the hazard ſo many unweildy Ships would run in long Nights, attended with ſo uncertain Weather, was too great, ſince the Nation ſtood in need of nothing more, at that time, than a Squadron ſtrong enough to protect the Homeward-bound Trade, to reſiſt what Force the *French* would probably ſet forth, and to give Countenance to our Affairs in *Ireland*: All which Services were but too much hinder'd by the whole Fleet's going out again; for had the three Deckt Ships been furniſhed with Proviſions ſufficient only to have carried them to their Ports, the others might have been much ſooner ſupply'd, and diſpatched to their intended Station: Nor could his Apprehenſions be thought without weight, that the dividing our Strength at Sea, might

The Admiral of Opinion the great Ships ought not to be hazarded without a preſent Proſpect of Service.

might have very much expoſed us; for had the *French* got notice of our Intentions, it was reaſonable to think they would not have ſlipt ſo promiſing an Opportunity of intercepting ſo many of the beſt Ships of *England* and *Holland*; for with an Eaſterly Wind they might have reach'd the *Lizard*, by which Place the Detachment from our Fleet would have been obliged to paſs.

The Admiral's Objections againſt the great Ships ſtaying at Spithead, when ordered in.

He alſo objected againſt the great Ships going to *Spithead*, becauſe the Danger of the Sands there is little leſs than in their Paſſage up the River: Beſides, an Opportunity of Wind might thereby have been loſt for carrying them about, which would not only have encreaſed the Charge, by keeping the Men longer in pay, but alſo have delay'd their refitting: A Work that call'd for all Diligence and Application, ſince ſo great a Number of Capital Ships were to be Dockt, and Repair'd for the next Summer's Service.

And that I may in ſome meaſure ſhew what hazard the Great, and conſequently Laborious, Ships do run at ſuch a Seaſon of the Year, take the following Inſtance thereof, *viz.*

The Hazard the whole Fleet run by a Storm in the Soundings, *which forced them to bear up for* Plimouth.

The Fleet being in the *Soundings* the 2d of *September*, met with ſuch a violent Storm, that all which could poſſibly be done for its Preſervation, was to bear up for ſo dangerous a Port as *Plimouth*; and what from the violence of the Wind, and the hazineſs of the Weather, the Ships were ſo confuſedly ſcattered, that the greateſt part of them were not ſeen when the Admiral himſelf came to an Anchor in the *Sound*; But when it grew ſomewhat clearer, one of the Second Rates (which prov'd to be the *Coronation*) was diſcovered at Anchor off of the *Ram-head*, without any thing ſtanding but the Enſign-ſtaff, and ſoon after ſhe Founder'd, her Commander, Captain *Skelton*, together with her Company, except a very inconſiderable Number, being loſt. Many of the biggeſt Ships, were not able to weather the Haſtermoſt point of Land at the Entrance into *Plimouth* Sound; and therefore were conſtrain'd to take Sanctuary there, in that unavoidable Confuſion, which a Lee Shore, thick Weather, and a very hard Gale of Wind will always occaſion: Inſomuch, that the *Harwich*, a Third Rate, ran on Shore and bulged near Mount *Edgcumbe* Houſe, and the *Royal-Oak* and *Northumberland* tailed on the Ground, though afterwards

afterwards they were luckily got off. A great *Dutch* Ship was ſeen at Anchor above five Leagues in the *Offing*, with all her Maſts gone, and ſeveral there were that very narrowly eſcaped the Danger of the *Ediſtone*. The Ships that were to Windward had indeed the good fortune to carry it clear; but although it pleaſed God to terminate this Matter with no other loſs than is already mentioned, unleſs in Maſts, Sails and Rigging, which were intolerably ſhatter'd, yet, in the Eye of Common Reaſon, it might have proved of fatal conſequence.

Many Objections were made, at the beginning of the War, againſt the Fleet's returning ſo late into the Sea, though at that time it conſiſted of no more than 60 Sail, and but one of them ſuperior to a Third Rate: And conſequently a greater Hazard was now run with a Fleet of 80 Ships, 26 of which were of the greateſt Magnitude. Nor could the *French* themſelves have deſired a better Game, than to ſee the Strength of *England* and *Holland* contending with Winds and Waves, at a time when they ſecured themſelves in Harbour.

The Admiral having given Orders for refitting ſuch Ships, within his reach, as had received damage, and left

The Admiral arrives at St. Hellens, *having left Sir* Cloudeſly Shovell *to fit the Ships at* Plimouth.

Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* at *Plimouth* to ſee the ſame perform'd, put to Sea, and arriv'd at *St. Hellens* the 8th of *September* in the Afternoon; but before he ſail'd, he ordered Sir *Cloudeſly* to ſend five Fourth, three Fifth, and two Sixth Rates, to cruize in the *Soundings*, in ſuch Numbers together, and in ſuch Stations, as might moſt effectually conduce to the Security of the Homeward-bound Merchant Ships, and then, with the reſt of the Ships fit for Sea, to repair to *Spithead*.

The three Deckt Ships ordered up to Chatham, *and the great* Dutch *Ships ſent home.*

Soon after, he received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to ſend the Three Deckt Ships about to *Chatham*, grounded (as I ſuppoſe) upon the Inconveniencies he had repreſented might attend their continuing at *Spithead*: And His Majeſty's Pleaſure was ſignify'd to the *Dutch* Admiral, That he ſhould likewiſe repair home with the great Ships of the States General. But ſince Her Majeſty had ordered to Sea a Squadron of 30 Ships, and as many more as were in condition, to intercept Succours from *France* to *Limerick*, Admiral *Almond* was forbid to ſend home any of his Squadron, under the 1ſt and 2d Rate, that were fit to be continued on Service, but to employ them, on this Occaſion, in conjunction with our Ships, without inſiſting on the exact Proportion. The

The Squadron of *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships being formed, the Admiral ſent a Liſt of their Names to the Secretary of State, and acquainted him, that they ſhould be ſent away with all poſſible diſpatch; but obſerved withal, That if the *French* arrived at *Limerick* before this Force could get thither, the ſmall Squadron there would run the greateſt hazard of being deſtroy'd.

Sir Ralph Delavall ordered with a Squadron into the Soundings.

Sir *Ralph Delavall* (then Vice Admiral of the Blue) was appointed to command on this Expedition, and ordered to govern himſelf according to the following Inſtructions:

His Inſtructions.

In the firſt place he was ordered to take under his command the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships mentioned in an annexed Liſt, and to ſend ſuch of them as were firſt ready, to the appointed Station, between 20 and 30 Leagues S.W. off Cape *Clear*, to which place he was to follow with the reſt as ſoon as 'twas poſſible.

There he was to cruize in ſuch manner as he ſhould judge moſt proper, to protect the Trade and prevent the Town of *Limerick*'s being ſuccoured by the *French*, which 'twas reported they did intend to do,

do, with 20 Ships of War, under command of Monſieur *Chateau Renault*.

He was cautioned to have a particular Regard to the ſafety of the Squadron that had for ſome time been employ'd under command of Captain *Coal* in the *Shannon*, and ordered to bring them thence at his return home, if not otherwiſe diſpoſed of by the Lords of the Admiralty.

But notwithſtanding theſe Orders pointed out a particular Station, if (from any Intelligence of the Enemy's Proceedings) he ſhould judge it for the Service to alter the ſame, it was entirely left to his Diſcretion; and the time limitted for his Cruize was the 30th of this preſent Month, when he was to return to *Spithead*, and to ſend the ſeveral Ships to the reſpective Places aſſign'd for their being refitted at, if he received not Orders to the contrary before.

To theſe Inſtructions Her Majeſty in Council was pleaſed to direct the following Particulars ſhould be added, *viz.*

1. That

1. That he ſhould continue on the Station till the 15th of *October*, unleſs he received other Orders, or that he did ſooner hear of the Surrender of *Limerick*.
2. That he ſhould not recal the Ships from the *Shannon*, without the Conſent of the Lieutenant General.

The Reaſons why Sir Ralph Delavall was forbid calling the Ships from the Shannon.

That which occaſion'd the forbidding his calling off the aforeſaid Ships in the *Shannon*, was a Letter from the Lieutenant General, ſignifying his Doubts, that if thoſe Ships were recall'd, *Limerick* could not be taken this Year; but that, otherwiſe, he was in hopes to be Maſter of it in a Month. The Reaſons he gave were theſe, That he could ſtay longer before the Town, having Ships to carry off his Cannon, and that, for want of ſuch a Convenience, he might be obliged to leave the Cannon behind him, if he ſucceeded not. He was alſo of Opinion, That the Ships would be very uſeful in preventing Succours from the *French*, and that ſince they were ſo near the Town, he did not foreſee any great Danger would attend them, for that the Enemy would not be fond of venturing their Squadron 50 Miles up the *Shannon*, at a time when we had a ſtrength at Sea.

Sir

Sir Ralph *forced back to* Torbay, *after he had four times attempted to ſail, and then ordered into the* Soundings, *with part of the Squadron.*

Sir *Ralph Delavall* was thrice beaten back by contrary Winds, and having attempted a fourth time to get out, he was the 16th of *October* obliged to bear up for *Torbay*, where he received Orders, the 18th, to proceed 15 Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, with ſuch part of the Squadron as remain'd; for the King had ordered five of the *Dutch* Ships from him, two of them to *Holland*, and the other three to the *Streights*. At this time Sir *Ralph* was informed by the Maſter of a *French* Ship taken by the *Dutch*, that he was 10 Days before in Company of 30 *French* Ships of War, and 20 Merchant Ships, near *Bell* Iſle, the latter loaden with Corn and Proviſions; and that it was reported by the Maſter of one of thoſe Merchant Ships, they did intend, when the Squadron got out to Sea, to divide in the manner following, *viz.* Ten of the Men of War, with ſome of the Ships with Corn, for the *Weſt Indies*; other 10 Men of War, and the remaining Proviſion Ships, for *Limerick*; and the reſt for the *Streights*.

He had advice of 30 *French Men of War and* 20 *Ships with Proviſions, and where they were bound.*

The Squadron came to Spithead *for want of Proviſions.*

The Squadron again put to Sea, but the want of Proviſions (a thing which frequently happen'd, and very much obſtructed Service) and the bad condition of the Ships, ſoon obliged them to return to *Spithead*; nor were the *Dutch* willing

willing to go to *Ireland*, as was propoſed: But the *French* not attempting to relieve *Limerick*, (as 'twas reported and believed they would) that Town ſoon ſurrendred; which Succeſs was follow'd by a total Reduction of a Kingdom that had proved ſo long troubleſome to our Affairs.

Limerick ſurrendred, and a total Reduction of Ireland ſoon followed.

Having now attended the Motions of the Grand Fleet, and the Detached Squadrons, from the time of their leaving, to that of their returning to their reſpective Harbours, and there being nothing more of this Year's Expedition at home to Treat of, than what relates to the Winter-Guard, which affords little of Moment, beſides what paſs'd between ſingle Ships of ours, and thoſe of the *French*, when they happened to meet with and encounter each other, I ſhall not trouble you with an Account of thoſe Matters, but proceed to ſuch remarkable Tranſactions as happen'd in the *Weſt-Indies*; and I do the rather chooſe to mention the ſame in this Place, altho' the Squadron commanded by Captain *Lawrence Wright* was ſent thither towards the cloſe of the Year 1689, for that this Year compleated the ſaid Expedition, and that the whole will thereby the better appear together, which it would not have done, had

had I given a diſtinct Account of each Year's Tranſactions in thoſe Parts.

Captain Lawrence Wright appointed to Command a Squadron going to the Weſt-Indies.

The 21ſt of *December*, 1689, the aforeſaid Captain *Wright* was appointed Commander in Chief of the Ships and Veſſels deſigned for the *Weſt-Indies*, being one Third Rate, ſeven Fourths, two Fifths, two Fireſhips, and one Ketch. He was ordered to Rendezvous with them at *Plimouth*, there to take on board a Regiment of Foot of his Grace the Duke of *Bolton*'s, and that being done to proceed to *Barbadoes*, and conſult with the Governor and Council how to ſecure the *Engliſh* Plantations, and recover thoſe that might be fallen into the hands of the *French*: But he was not to ſtay longer there than was abſolutely neceſſary for refreſhing the Regiment, and to take in ſuch Men, or Proviſions, as the ſaid Governor and Council ſhould think proper. Then he was to repair to ſuch of the Leeward *Carribbe* Iſlands, as (by Intelligence of the Enemy's Proceedings, and his Adviſeing with the aforeſaid Governor and Council) ſhould be thought moſt for the Service: And if he ſaw a good opportunity of attacking the Enemy, or their Ships, at *Martinico*, or elſewhere in his Paſſage to the aforeſaid Iſlands, it was recommended to him to make

His Inſtructions.

the

the beſt uſe thereof that poſſibly he could.

At the Leeward Iſlands he was to apply himſelf to General *Coddrington*, and in all Things relating to the Land-Service, to act according to his Directions, and the Opinion of a Council of War, either for landing the Regiment and attacking the *French* Colonies, recovering any of our Iſlands, or annoying the Enemy in any other manner. In Enterprizes at Sea, he was to act as ſhould be adviſed by the Governor and Councils of War, when he had Opportunities of Conſulting them; and when 'twas neceſſary, to ſpare as many Seamen as he could, with regard to the Safety of the Ships. And that the Iſlands might not be expoſed to Inſults, he was forbid to ſend any Ships from the Squadron till ſuch time as the Governor and Council were informed thereof, and ſatisfied that the Service did not require their immediate Attendance.

If, when he arrived in the Leeward Iſlands he found them all in the Poſſeſſion of the *French*, and that it ſhould not be judged requiſite to remain there, or to attempt the Enemy in thoſe Parts, he was, without delay, to repair to *Barbadoes*, there to Conſult with the Governor and Council, whether it might

not

not be moſt for the Service to ſtay with all, or any of the Ships, or to go to other of the Plantations for their Defence; and purſuant to what ſhould be ſo agreed on, he was to proceed, and to do the beſt Service in his Power, till he received Orders to return to *England*. And leſt the *French* ſhould attempt any of the *Dutch* Plantations, and prevail upon them for want of timely Aſſiſtance, it was recommended to him to give them what Help the Circumſtances of our own Affairs, both by Sea and Land, would conveniently admit of.

Captain *Wright* ſailed from *Plimouth* the 8th of *March*, 1689, with a conſiderable number of Merchant Ships under his Convoy; but ſuch was the extremity of the Weather not long after he parted with the Land, that moſt of the Ships received very conſiderable Damage, eſpecially in their Maſts, Sails, and Rigging; and after he had beat it up and down ſeveral days without ſeeing any of his Squadron, or of the Merchant Ships, he got into the Road of *Funchall*, on the Iſland of *Madera*, the 2d of *April*, 1690, where he found all the Men of War, except the *Jerſey*, *Guernſey*, *Quaker* Ketch, and *Richard and John* Fireſhip, and about 20 Sail of the Merchant Ships. Here he ſtayed to Re-

After much bad Wea ther he arrives at the Madera's.

Recruit, and to take in Wine for the Men in ſtead of Beer, as is uſual in ſuch Voyages, and then ſet ſail for *Barbadoes*, where he came to an Anchor in *Carliſle* Bay the 11th of *May* following, but in ſo ſickly a condition, that 'twas difficult to find a number of healthy Men to get up his Anchors; tho' the Sick ſoon recovered by the Care that was taken to put them on Shoar, and to provide them Neceſſaries when there. The next day the Squadron ſailed towards the Leeward Iſlands, and anchoring the 19th of *June* in *Nevis* Road, where the Land Forces were embarked, it was agreed, at night, by a General Council of War, That the Commadore, with five of his Squadron, and three light Sloops, ſhould firſt ſail along Shoar, not only to alarm the Enemy, but to draw them after him, which he accordingly endeavoured to do, but the Army not arriving time enough, the day unfortunately appear'd before they could reach *Friggot*'s Bay, the Place appointed to land at; ſo that, being diſcovered, they durſt not then attempt it, becauſe the Enemy were ſo ſtrongly intrenched. The following afternoon it was agreed, that Sir *Timothy Thornhill*, with about 500 Men, ſhould, the 22d at night, land in

Arrives at Barbadoes.

Sails towards, and arrives at the Leeward Iſlands, and the Land-Forces embark.

Sir Timothy Thornhill with 300 Men landed.

the Bay Eaſtward to that of *Friggot's* Bay, and accordingly the Men were all put on Shoar about One in the morning, and begun their March up the Hills by the Aſſiſtance of a Black Guide.

Somewhat before day, being on the Weſt-ſide of the Top of the Hill, they met with a Party of *French*, who were by our Men ſoon put to their Heels, and followed ſo cloſely, that they entred with them into their Trenches, where indeed they made a ſtout Reſiſtance for almoſt two hours: But ſuch Bravery was ſhewn on our Side, eſpecially by the Officer who Commanded, that the *French* were beaten out of their Trenches, and put a Second time to the Run. In the Heat of this Action the reſt of the Army landed, and about Seven in the morning pitched their Colours in the Enemy's Trenches; and being ſoon after drawn out, they began their March for *Back-Star*, having ſeveral Hills to paſs over, between two of which the routed *French* had poſted themſelves in order to a Second Combat.

They march to, and attack Back-Star, *defeating ſeveral Parties of the Enemy.*

So ſoon as our Forces came up, the Enemy fired vigorouſly on them, but were anſwer'd ſo warmly, that after an hour's Diſpute they ran, and did not appear again to impede General *Codrington*

drington (who was now at the Head of our Men) in his March to *Back-Star*.

At Eleven in the morning the Squadron weighed and ſailed to *Back-Star* Road, with intent to batter the Town and Forts, but the *French* eaſed them of that Trouble; for at our Approach they ſtruck their Colours, and left their Forts and the Town, part whereof they ſet on fire, and betook themſelves to the Mountains. The Army, conſiſting of about 3000 Men, (Seamen included) marched on, burning all before them, and in the evening lodg'd themſelves in a Plain, about a Mile from the Town, near the *Jeſuits* College. *The Town and Forts abandoned.*

I may not here omit taking notice of the Zeal and Bravery of the Officers and Men, but more particularly of Sir *Timothy Thornhill*, who, tho' very much wounded at the firſt entrance into the *French* Trenches, did nevertheleſs go on till they were routed, and ſuffered not his Wound to be dreſs'd before he came on board the Squadron.

In this Scuffle we had killed and wounded about 130 Men, and Captain *Keigwin*, who was appointed Colonel of the Marine Regiment, (which conſiſted of about 230 Seamen) was ſhot through the Thigh, of which Wound

he died before he could be carried on board: And Captain *Brisban*, who acted as Firſt Captain to the Marines, received a Shot through the Body, and died of the ſame the next night on board the *Briſtol*.

The General began his March the 24th towards the *Engliſh* Fort, and 'twas thought neceſſary that the Squadron ſhould ſail to, and anchor in the old Road, till ſuch time as the Army appeared, which they did in the evening, and being encamped, reſted that night and the next day.

General Coddington *marches with his Army to* Phrips *Bay.*

The 26th, early in the morning, they marched from *Phrips* Bay, and part encamped about three quarters of a Mile from the Fort, ſome about half a Mile's diſtance, and others marched up *Brimſtone* Hill, an Eminence that looked into the Fort.

The 30th, two Chaſe Guns were mounted of about 9 Feet long, carrying ſomewhat above a Five Pound Shot, and the General ſending the Commadore word, that he ſhould be ready next morning to fire into the Fort, he weighed with his ſeven Ships, and paſſing by the Fort within half Shot, fired his upper Tire of Guns, the lower not being able to do Service. After the Ships were all paſs'd, they ply'd to

The Fort attack'd.

Wind-

Windward, and being got a ſecond time into their firſt Order, they again paſs'd by the Fort; but not being capable of doing any conſiderable Damage, they ply'd to Windward, and anchored in the Road; and in this Skirmiſh was loſt the Gunner of the *Aſſiſtance*, and five Men were wounded.

A Council of War called.

The chief Officers being met in Council the 2d of *July*, 1690, it was the general Opinion, That it was neceſſary to put nine good Guns on Shoar, in order to batter the Fort, and that the Army ſhould intrench, and endeavour to gain Ground on the Enemy. Immediately nine Twelve Pounders were put on Shoar, and, with the help of the Seamen, mounted in their Carriages the 6th; ſo that now all was ready but the Platform and Trenches; but in the mean while the Guns from the Hill gauled the Fort, by beating down the Houſes; nor were the Enemy behindhand in their Endeavours to miſchief us with their great Guns and ſmall Arms.

Some days after, the General began his March with 800 Men round the Iſland, to bring in all the Stragglers he could meet with, and to fight any Body of *French* that ſhould attempt to face him, the reſt of the Army ſtaying

in their proper Poſt, and daily approaching nearer the Enemy, by the help of Retrenchments.

It was not long e're the General returned, and brought with him many Negroes, and ſeveral *French* Men who quitted their Arms and ſurrendred; and the 12th, in the afternoon, the *French* ſent a Flag of Truce from the Fort, deſiring three Days Ceſſation, which being followed the next morning with Articles of Surrender, the Fort was given up, the *French* marching out with all the Baggage they could carry, and about 40 Gentlemen were allowed their Arms. When our People came into the Fort, they were not a little ſurprized to ſee the Houſes ſo miſerably ſhatter'd, by the Shot only from the two Guns on the Hill, which the Enemy confeſs'd did conſtrain them to Surrender much ſooner than otherwiſe they would have done.

The Enemy ſend a Flag of Truce, and the next day Surrender.

The 17th a Council of War was called, and it was reſolved that Sir *Timothy Thornhill* ſhould march with his Regiment to *Stacia*, where he arrived on the 19th, without any reſiſtance, and the Squadron anchored there the ſame Evening. The 20th, there was a Parley, but no Agreement, and the next Day three of the Men of War anchored within

Sir Timothy Thornhill with his Regiment ſent to Stacia.

within ſhot of the Fort, which ſtill held out, although they were warmly ply'd from the Sea, and the four Guns on Shore. The People who defended this Fort (ſaid to be no more than 80) behaved themſelves with great bravery, firing only towards the Land, and wholly neglecting what was done againſt them from the Sea: But the other Battery of two Guns being fixed the 23d, and ſeveral ſhot fired from thence, a Flag of Truce was ſent from the Fort in the Afternoon, and the next Morning our People marched in upon the Enemy's ſurrender.

The Fort ſurrender'd.

The 26th at Night, the Squadron ſailed, and the next Day anchored at *St. Chriſtophers*, in the *Sandy* Bay, Weſtward of the Fort, where they took on board the Guns that were mounted on Shore: But the Army being now very ſickly of the Flux, a General Council was held the 3d, where it was agreed not to attempt any other Place till the Men were in better Health, and that the Hurricanes, daily expected, were over; ſo that on the 2d of *Auguſt* the Squadron ſailed to the old Road, and Watered, and the next Morning to *Nevis*; but the Winds ſhifting to the W. N. W, obliged them to weigh from thence, and on the 5th they came to

The Squadron returns to St. Chriſtophers, *and a Council of War agreed to make no more attempts till the Men were recover'd.*

an Anchor off of the *Five Iſlands* at *Antegoa*, where they put the Soldiers on Shore, and ſupplied themſelves with Wood, and departing thence the 7th, plied for *Barbadoes*, where they arrived the 13th. The Commadore was fearful the Hurricanes might take him in this Road, and therefore ſail'd the next Day about 30 Leagues Southward, the better to avoid thoſe boiſterous Winds, it being intended, ſo ſoon as they were over, to attack *Guardalupe*, if in condition for ſuch an Undertaking.

The Squadron arrived at Antegoa after the Hurricanes were over. The Hurricanes were no ſooner over, but the Squadron ſailed for the Leeward Iſlands, and on the 6th of *December* anchored in *Five Iſlands* Bay at *Antegoa*; but not finding General *Coddrington* there, they ſailed again the next Night, and anchored at *Nevis*, and from thence arriving at *St. Chriſtophers*, they there met the General.

A Reſolution taken to attack Guardalupe. The 11th of *December*, 1690, a Council of War was called, and it was determined to attack *Guardalupe*; in order whereunto the General went forthwith to *Nevis*, *Montſerrat*, and *Antegoa*, to get the Army in readineſs, that ſo no time might be loſt in Shipping them, when the Squadron ſhould come to each of thoſe Iſlands; but by reaſon of the great Mortality, the whole Force would not

not exceed 1500 Men, if the 350 deſigned for *St. Chriſtophers* were left there.

The 15th of *December* the Squadron ſailed from *St. Chriſtophers*, and anchored the 30th in *Carliſle* Bay, where they were in hopes of Proviſions from *England*, for there was ſo great a want, that, with an equal Dividend, it would not laſt longer than the end of *January*; nor was there leſs ſcarcity of Stores: And the Commadore being obliged to ſend from the Squadron the *Guernſey* and *Quaker* Ketch for the Station at *Jamaica*, the *Succeſs* to convoy the Ships from thence to *England*, and another Ship to do the like for thoſe at *Barbadoes* and the Leeward Iſlands, there remained but ſeven Ships, and thoſe in the following condition, *viz.*

The Squadron arrives in Carliſle Bay, but wanted Proviſions.

Mary, — Her Foremoſt ſprung.
Tyger, — Had a Jury Main-maſt.
Aſſiſtance, Was ſhot in the Head of her Main-maſt with a 24 Pounder, and Leaky.
Briſtol, — Her Foremaſt ſprung, and the Ship Leaky.
Antelope, — Her Main-maſt was ſprung.
Hampſhire, In like condition.
St. *Paul* Fireſhip.

The

The Victualling Ships arrive from England The 20th of *January*, 1690, the Victuallers arrived, under Convoy of the *Jerſey*, and all diligence was uſed in the diſtributing to each Ship her Proportion. The 31ſt, the *Briſtol* returned from her Cruize off of *Martinico*, the Captain of which Ship reported, That 15 Days before ſhe ſaw about 14 ſail of *French* Men of War enter into that Port. Upon this, Captain *Wright* called a Council of the Captains, before whom Captain *Haughton* declared what he had ſeen, and it was immediately agreed, That ſix of the beſt Merchant Ships ſhould be taken up to ſerve as Men of War, *viz.* One of 40 Guns, two of 32, and three of 30 Guns each; together with a Fire-ſhip, but there was not ſufficient time to fit her. For the more expeditious Victualling theſe Ships, three Commiſſioners were appointed out of the Council, namely, Col. *Lillingſton*, and *George Andrews* and *John Bromley* Eſqs; the Governor himſelf diſburſing what Money was neceſſary for purchaſing the ſame: But little or nothing came of this whole Matter, for Captain *Wright*, the Commander in Chief, falling ſick, and there having not been ſo good an Underſtanding between himſelf and the Governor abroad, as might have been wiſhed, he left the Squadron, by the advice

A Council of War call'd upon notice that 14 French *Men of War were at* Martinico.

advice of the Phyſicians, upon the ſcore of his Health, and came to *England*; and not long after the Squadron was divided, ſome to particular Services in the *Weſt Indies*, while the remainder came home, and brought with them the Trade that was ready to ſail, as will be more particularly related in the following Account of Captain *Wrenn*'s Proceedings in thoſe Parts.

The latter end of *October*, 1691, the ſaid Captain *Ralph Wrenn*, who then commanded the *Norwich*, was ordered to take alſo under his Command two other Ships of the Fourth Rate, the *Diamond* and *Mordaunt*, and upon arriving with them at *St. Hellens*, he was to receive on board there 150 Soldiers, Recruits for the Duke of *Bolton*'s Regiment then in the Leeward Iſlands.

There were alſo other Land Forces to be carried in Tranſport Ships, which, with Victuallers and the Trade, he was to convoy to *Barbadoes*, and there to ſtay no longer than was abſolutely neceſſary for the Refreſhment of the Men, but to proceed to the Leeward Iſlands; and when he came to the *Weſt-Indies*, he was to take under his Command the Ships following, *viz.* the *Mary*, *Antelope*, *Aſſiſtance*, *Hamſhire*, and *Jerſey*, (the firſt being a Third, and all the reſt

Fourth

Fourth Rates) as alſo the St. *Paul* Fire-ſhip; but one of the Squadron he was to detach to *Jamaica*, to convoy the Trade from thence to *England*.

It was particularly recommended to him, to employ the Ships under his Command ſo as that they might beſt ſecure our Plantations, and annoy the Enemy; and in the Spring of the Year he was ordered to return to *England*.

When there might be occaſion for any Enterprize at Land, he was to govern himſelf as ſhould be directed by Colonel *Coddrington*, General of the Leeward Iſlands, and a Council of War; and upon Enterprizes at Sea, he was to adviſe with them; as in like caſe he was to do, during his ſtay at *Barbadoes*; and at all ſuch Councils of War as the Governors ſhould aſſemble, wherein the Service of the Squadron was required, he was to preſide next to the ſaid Governors, and three of the eldeſt Captains of the Squadron were to have Votes at thoſe Conſultations.

Thus was Captain *Wrenn* Inſtructed, and the 12th of *December* he ſailed from *Plimouth*. The 16th of the next Month he arrived at *Barbadoes*; but before he came to Anchor, he received advice by a Sloop from the Governor, that Nine *French* Ships of War were ſeen to Leeward

ward of the Iſland, and that there was among them the *Jerſey*, a Fourth Rate of ours, which had been taken ſome time before off of *Dominico*.

At *Barbadoes* the Commadore was join'd by the *Antelope*, and *Mary*, and there he had advice that the *Aſſiſtance*, *Hampſhire*, and *St. Paul* Fireſhip, part of the Ships that were to compoſe his Squadron, were at the Leeward Iſlands.

The 23d, the Governor called a Council of War, and 'twas agreed, That ſo ſoon as the *Antelope* could be got ready, all the Ships ſhould proceed directly for *Antegoa*; but preſently after this a Sloop arrives, which had been ſent to *Martinico* with Priſoners, and gave an account, that the *French* had 18 Ships of War in thoſe Parts, and that 8 of them were actually cruizing off *Barbadoes*, and the reſt fitting out with all Expedition; ſo that on the 25th another Council was aſſembled, and then 'twas agreed, that two Merchant Ships ſhould be taken up, and fitted, and that, with their aſſiſtance, the Squadron ſhould attempt the Enemy.

All things being ready, and the Soldiers put on board the Men of War, the Squadron ſailed the 30th of *January*, and plied to the Windward, it conſiſting

ſiſting of five Ships of War, two hir'd Ships, and two Privateer Sloops.

They continued to cruize five Days, but finding none of the Enemy's Ships, the Commadore returned to *Barbadoes*, and there another Council of War was held on the 5th of *February*, where it was determined, that ſince the *French* were gone off the Coaſt, all poſſible diſpatch ſhould be made in following them; ſo that the Squadron ſailed from *Barbadoes* the 17th of *February*, the Commadore having before ſent two Sloops to *Martinico*, to make what Diſcovery they could, and then to join him at *Antegoa*.

Captain Wrenn meets with the French Ships.

But when he came off of *Deſiada*, he eſpied a conſiderable Number of *French* Ships, which proved to be 18 Men of War, two Fireſhips, and about five or ſix ſmall Veſſels; among which were three of our Ships which they had taken, namely, the *Jerſey* beforementioned, the *Conſtant-Warwick*, and *Mary-Roſe*; and this Squadron was commanded by the Count *Blanack*.

Captain *Wrenn* was obliged to bear down about ſix Leagues to Leeward, to join ſome of his Squadron, and to tow ſome of the Merchant Ships out of danger, and the Enemy followed him, and lay all Night in a Line of Battel, within

in Gun-ſhot, the Trade in the mean time ſeparating themſelves, as uſual, ſome Northward and others Southward.

At Eight the next Morning, ſome of our Ships had not a breath of Wind, though at the ſame time the Enemy had a freſh Gale, and by that Advantage four of them bore down upon the *Mary*, which Ship defended her ſelf very well till the Commadore himſelf could come to her aſſiſtance; and at the ſame time the *Mordaunt*, and one of the hired Ships, namely the *England Frigat*, were warmly engaged. *They Engage.*

The Commadore finding the great Diſproportion of Strength, and that the Merchant Ships which were under his Care, had taken the proper Methods for their own Security, did wiſely provide for the Safety of the Ships under his Command, and therefore bore away, but with ſuch little ſail, as that he ſecured the three Ships which the Enemy gave chaſe to, and anchored in *Carliſle* Bay at *Jamaica* the 25th.

By what has been ſaid, the Reader may perceive what little uſe the Enemy made of this great Advantage, and that they contented themſelves with making an Experiment, whether Three of their Ships could beat One of ours, without expoſing themſelves to what

might

might have attended a general Fight between both Squadrons; for had they heartily laid hold of the Opportunity, 'twas not poſſible that our Ships could have ſo eaſily eſcaped them.

Captain *Wrenn* dying ſome time after, the Command of the Squadron fell by Seniority on Captain *Beteler*, who with part thereof ſailed from *Barbadoes* the 14th of *June*, according to Inſtructions, and arrived in *England* the 11th of *Auguſt* following, having left the reſt to attend the Plantations.

Admiral Ruſſell appointed a ſecond time to Command the Fleet.

Having now given an Account of Tranſactions abroad, I return to the Body of the Fleet, of which Mr. *Ruſſell* was appointed Admiral, by Commiſſion bearing date the 3d of *December*, 1691. The greateſt Care imaginable was taken to give the quickeſt Diſpatch to the Ships, ſo as that they might be early out; and the 22d of *April* he had Orders to ſend from the *Buoy of the Nore* to the *Flats of the Foreland*, under one or more Flag-Officers, all ſuch Ships of the Third and Fourth Rate, and Fireſhips, as were ready, and to order the reſt after them, ſo ſoon as they ſhould be in a Condition; and Advice-Boats were ſent out for Intelligence of the Enemy's Preparations at *Breſt*, and the Poſts thereabouts.

Sir

Sir *Ralph Delavall* was ſuddenly expected from *Cadiz* with the Squadron he commanded; and it was reported, that the *French* deſigned to intercept him and the *Dutch* Ships, in their Paſſage: To prevent which, Orders were ſent him the 29th of *February*, 1691, by the *Groyne* Packet-Boat, to avoid coming near Cape *St. Vincent*, and to keep ſo far out to Sea, as not to make Cape *Clear*; but rather to ſail to *Dingle* Bay, the Mouth of the *Shannon*, or ſome other Port thereabouts, the better to ſhun the Danger that not only the Ships, but the Effects of the Merchants, might be expoſed to by meeting the *French* Squadron. Leſt theſe Orders ſhould not timely meet him at *Cadiz*, there was the like caution ſent to him, by an Advice-Boat, whoſe Commander was ordered to cruize off of Cape *Clear*, or thereabouts, to look out for him, and to endeavour to gain and communicate to him what he could learn of the Enemy: And if neither he, or Sir *Ralph* himſelf, could get any Intelligence, he was ordered to repair with his Squadron to *Cork* or *Kinſale*; but both theſe Orders miſs'd him, and he had the good Fortune to arrive ſafe in the *Downes* the beginning of *March* following.

Notice ſent to Sir Ralph Delavall to take care of the Enemy in his paſſage from the Streights.

He arrives in the Downes, without meeting the ſaid Advice.

Rear Admiral Carter *on the* French *Coaſt with a Squadron.*

There was likewiſe at Sea a Squadron under the Command of Rear-Admiral *Carter*, of five Third Rates, ſix Fourths, ſix Fifths, one Sixth, three Fireſhips, one Ketch, one Yacht and a Brigantine, with which he was ordered, the 14th of *April*, 1692, to ſail to the Iſlands of *Jerſey* and *Guernſey*, and there taking on board Pilots, to proceed to the Coaſt of *France* near *St. Malo*, and Cruize 48 Hours; longer than which time it was not thought convenient he ſhould ſtay, unleſs he found an Opportunity of doing Service. From thence he was to ſail to Cape *de Hague*, and to ſtand as near in to *Havredegrace* as the ſafety of the Ships would permit; and if no Service could be done there, to return forthwith to *Spithead*, if he judg'd it not for the ſecurity of the Iſlands to continue longer on the *French* Coaſt; in which caſe he was ordered to ſend the earlieſt Advice he could of his Intentions. Theſe Orders were followed by others of the 20th and 23d of *April*, 1692, the firſt directing him to repair with all ſpeed to the *Flats of the Foreland*, and the other requiring him, in his return, to keep the *French* Coaſt on board, and endeavour to join the Squadron with which Sir *Ralph Delavall* was going forth, but upon miſſing him to return to the *Downes*.

The Inſtructions given him.

Not

Notwithſtanding the aforementioned Orders, he was, *May* 5 following, directed to Cruize between Cape *de Hague* and the Iſle of *Wight*, and to endeavour to join the Body of the Fleet when it ſhould arrive thereabouts; which Orders were ſent to him by Sir *Ralph Delavall*, who on the 24th of *April* received Directions from the Admiral, to proceed with all the 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th Rates, and Fireſhips, that were ready, together with the Bomb-Veſſels, to the *South Foreland*, and paſſing in ſight of *Calais*, to ſtretch it away Weſtward along the *French* Coaſt as far as Cape *de Hague*, and there to ſend the ſmaller Ships as near in with the Shore as with ſafety they might, to diſcover what the Enemy were doing at *Diepe*, *St. Vallery*, and *Havredegrace*, at which Places he was ordered to attempt any thing on their Shipping that he ſhould think feizable. When he arrived as far Weſtward as Cape *de Hague*, he was to ſtretch it over to the Iſle of *Wight*, and finding no Orders there, to return to and range along the *French* Coaſt till he came off of *Dover*, where he was to call for Orders; but meeting none, to repair to the *Flats of the Foreland*, the Place from whence he ſailed. He was caution'd to keep Scouts out to prevent the Enemy's

ſurpriſing him, or paſſing Eaſtward; and if they appeared, and he judged them too ſtrong, he was not to Engage them, but to retreat to the *Flats of the Foreland*, and ſend Advice with all Expedition to the Flag Officer there; and upon meeting Rear-Admiral *Carter* with his Squadron, he was to take him under his Command. But notwithſtanding he was by this Order directed to return to the *Flats of the Foreland*, when he had ſtretched it over from Cape *de Hague* to the Iſle of *Wight*, other Orders were, upon further Conſideration, ſent him the ſame Day by the Lords of the Admiralty, to Cruize between that Cape and the Iſle of *Wight*, till join'd by Admiral *Ruſſell*, unleſs the Enemy came out too ſtrong for him; and then to retire as aforeſaid.

The Admiral ordered to Sea with the Fleet, and to join the aforeſaid Squadrons

At this very time the Admiral himſelf had Inſtructions to ſail with the Body of the Fleet, both *Dutch* and *Engliſh*, and to lie between Cape *de Hague* and the Iſle of *Wight*, in order to join Sir *Ralph Delavall*'s and Rear-Admiral *Carter*'s Squadrons: Which Station was particularly appointed, upon conſidering a Letter of his, wherein he deſired, that a certain Place might be fixed for the ſaid Conjunction, and that Orders might be accordingly given to all

all Perſons concerned; though it appears by another Letter, that he was of Opinion it was better for the Fleet to Anchor off of the *Neſſe*, or *Beachy-head*, and, when join'd there by the Squadrons, to have proceeded on Service. However, being ſenſible of what great importance it was to the Nation, that the great Ships ſhould join the other two Squadons without the loſs of a Moment's time, he ply'd it down through the *Sands* with a very ſcanty Wind, contrary to the Opinion of many of the Officers, and all the Pilots, who were againſt venturing ſuch a Charge at ſo great an uncertainty.

He plies down through the Sands with the great Ships, contrary to the Advice of the Pilots.

On the 8th, the Fleet came all ſafe off of *Rye*, paſſing through the *Downes* without making any ſtay: But at Night the Admiral ſent to the *Dutch* Admiral (who was at Anchor there) to weigh, and make ſail after him, that ſo no time might be loſt. When he was off of *Dover* he ſent away Captain *Meeſe* with a Squadron of ſmall Ships in ſearch of Sir *Ralph Delavall*, with Orders to him to join the Fleet off of *Beachy*, or to ſend a Frigat with advice where he was, to prevent any Accident of miſſing each other. The 9th of *May*, about Seven in the Afternoon, the *Dutch* join'd the Fleet from the *Downes*, and one of

And arrives in Rye *Bay.*

A Squadron ſent in ſearch of the two Squadrons.

their Rear-Admirals, with all the Ships under three Decks, were at Anchor off of the *Neſſe*; ſo that a Council of War was called, where it was reſolved (both by *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Flag-Officers) as follows, *viz.*

A Council of War called. That conſidering the Orders given to Sir *Ralph Delavall*, it would be beſt to remain with the Fleet in *Rye* Bay 48 Hours, for the more ſure and ſpeedy joining him, and that a Ship ſhould be forthwith ſent to cruize off of *Beachy* to look for him, and upon diſcovering his Flag, to make a Signal to another Frigat appointed to lie between *Beachy* and *Rye*, for communicating the like Notice thereof to the Fleet. But it was alſo agreed, That if the Wind blew hard Weſterly, or Eaſterly, it was moſt convenient for the Fleet, in the firſt caſe, to Anchor off of the *Neſſe*, and in the other, to proceed to *St. Hellens*, and Anchor there.

The Fleet ſails and is joined by Sir R. Delavall *and Rear-Admiral* Carter *at* St. Hellens. For three Days together the Wind continued Eaſterly, but no more of the *Dutch* Ships which were expected appeared: And the 11th of *May* the Fleet ſailed from *Rye* Bay, and was join'd the 13th at *St. Hellens*, by the Squadrons with Sir *Ralph Delavall* and Rear-Admiral *Carter*, who had met each other the 9th, the former ſtanding over to the Iſle

Iſle of *Wight* from Cape *de Hague*, and the other out from *St. Hellens* in ſearch of him. But that all delays might be prevented, the Admiral had before diſpatched a Frigat to the *French* Coaſt, with Orders to Rear-Admiral *Carter* to join him, and left Inſtructions for all *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships that ſhould come into *Rye* Bay, to follow him to *St. Hellens*, that ſo the Fleet might be entire.

A Council of War agree to ſail to the French Coaſt near Cape de Hague.

The 15th of *May*, 1692, a Council of War was called of the Flag-Officers, as Her Majeſty had commanded, and though it was unanimouſly agreed, that the Fleet ought not to proceed Weſtward of *St. Hellens*, till there was certain Advice where the *French* Fleet was, and then to endeavour to Engage them; yet it was thought reaſonable to ſail the firſt fair Weather to the Coaſt of *France*, near the Cape *de Hague* and *Barfleur*, and continue there four Days, if it might conveniently be done, and then to return to *St. Hellens*, the Place agreed on by all to be the moſt proper to rendezvous at.

The Flag Officers and Captains Addreſs Her Majeſty, upon account of ſome malicious aſperſions

Much about this time Reports were ſpread about the Town, that ſeveral Captains in the Fleet had given aſſurance to the Diſaffected Perſons on Shore of their adhering to them; but Her

Majeſty was pleaſed to let them know, ſhe could not believe that any among them harboured ſuch ill Principles: And that the Queen might be throughly ſatisfied with their Integrity, they unanimouſly ſign'd to a Paper, by which they declared their Zeal and Loyalty, and, at their Requeſt, the Admiral convey'd it to Her Majeſty: And ſince it is a Juſtice due to the Gentlemen of the Sea to publiſh the Contents of the ſaid Paper, I refer the Reader to the following Copy thereof.

WE Your Majeſty's moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects and Servants, Flag Officers and Captains in Your Majeſty's Fleet, out of the deep and grateful Senſe we have of Your Majeſty's good and juſt Opinion of our Loyalty and Fidelity, imparted to us by the Right Honourable Admiral Ruſſell *in a Letter to him from my Lord* Nottingham, *do, in behalf of our ſelves and all the other Officers and Seamen, humbly preſume to addreſs our ſelves to Your Majeſty at this juncture, to undeceive the World in thoſe falſe and malicious Reports that have been lately ſpread in Prejudice of Your Majeſty's Service, by People of an unreaſonable Diſaffection to Your Majeſty's Government, and an abſolute Averſion to the Quiet and Good of our Country, that there are ſome among us who*

are

are not truly Zealous for, and entirely Devoted to, Your Majeſty's Service. We do therefore moſt humbly beg Your Majeſty's Leave, to add to our repeated Oaths this Aſſurance of our Fidelity, That we will, with all imaginable Alacrity and Reſolution, venture our Lives in the Defence of Your Majeſty's undoubted Rights, and the Liberty and Religion of our Country, againſt all Foreign and Popiſh Invaders whatſoever. And that GOD Almighty may Preſerve Your Majeſty's moſt Sacred Perſon, Direct Your Councils, and Proſper Your Arms by Sea and Land againſt Your Majeſty's Enemies, let all People ſay Amen *with Your Majeſty's moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects. Dated on board the* Britannia *at* St. Hellens *the 15th Day of* May, 1692.

Having made this little Digreſſion, I ſhall return to the more immediate Buſineſs of the Fleet. When all the Ships, *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, were together, the Admiral propoſed, That a ſmall Detachment of 6 or 8 Frigats might hover about the Coaſt of *Normandy*, and that at the ſame time the Forces intended for a Deſcent ſhould embark and be landed at *St. Maloes*, and the Grand Fleet lie Weſtard of that Place, to protect them from the *French*: Which he thought would not only contribute to the

the Succeſs on Shoar, but oblige the Enemy to come to a Battel at Sea, rather than lie ſtill, and ſee their Country invaded.

One part of this Propoſition was immediately approved of; and, that Intelligence might be had of the Enemy's Proceedings, the Admiral ſent ſix Sail of light Ships, for 48 Hours time, off of *Havre de Grace*, and the Cape: And it being left to him to proceed as a Council of War ſhould Adviſe, he ſailed the 18th of *May* for the Coaſt of *France*, and on the 19th, about Three in the Morning, Cape *Barfleur* bearing S.W. by S, diſtant about 7 Leagues, the Scouts Weſtward of the Fleet (which were the *Cheſter* and *Charles* Galley) fired ſeveral Guns, and being in a ſhort time within ſight, made the Signal of Diſcovering the Enemy, and lay with their Heads Northward. Immediately Orders were given for drawing into a Line of Battel, and the Signal was made for the Rear of the Fleet to Tack, that, if the *French* ſtood Northward, we might the ſooner come up and Engage; but the Sun having diſperſed the Fog ſoon after Four, the *French* Fleet was ſeen ſtanding Southward, forming their Line on the ſame Tack with us. Upon this, the Admiral cauſed the Signal for the

A ſmall Squadron order'd off of Havre de Grace.

The Enemy's Fleet diſcovered.

the Rear to Tack to be taken in, and bore away with his own Ship ſo far Leeward, as that each Ship in the Fleet might fetch his Wake, and then he brought to and lay by with his Fore Topſail to the Maſt, that ſo others might have the better Opportunity of placing themſelves according to the Manner formerly directed on ſuch an Occaſion.

A particular Account of the Engagement.

By Eight a Clock our Line was indifferently well formed, ſtretching from the S. S. W. to the N. N. E, the *Dutch* in the Van, the *Red* in the Center, and the *Blue* in the Rear; and by Nine, the Enemy's Van had ſtretched almoſt as far Southward as ours, their Admiral and Rear-Admiral of the *Blue* (who were in the Rear) cloſing the Line, and their Vice-Admiral of the ſame Diviſion ſtretching to the Rear of our Fleet. About Ten a Clock they bore down upon us, and indeed with great Reſolution; and the Admiral (who ſtill lay by with his Fore Topſail to the Maſt) obſerving that Monſieur *Tourville* had put out his Signal for Battel, commanded that his ſhould not be ſpread till the Engagement began, that ſo the *French* (who had the Wind) might have an opportunity of coming as near as they thought convenient.

At

At this time Admiral *Almonde*, who commanded the *Dutch*, was ſent to Tack and get to the Weſtward of the *French*, ſo ſoon as any of his Ships could weather the Fleet, and the *Blue* (at ſome diſtance a-ſtern) were order'd to cloſe the Line: But when the Fleets began to Engage it fell calm, ſo that theſe Directions could not poſſibly be complied with.

About half an Hour after Eleven, Monſieur *Tourville* in the *Royal Sun* (a Ship of 110 Guns) brought to, and began the Fight with our Admiral, being within three quarters Musket-Shot; in which Poſture he lay about an Hour and half, plying his Guns very warmly, but then he began to tow off in great Diſorder, his Rigging, Sails, and Topſail Yards, being very much wounded; nor could it be diſcern'd that any great Endeavours were uſed to repair that Damage.

Near Two a Clock the Wind ſhifted to the N. W. by W, and ſome little time after that, five Ships of the Enemy's Blue Squadron poſted themſelves three a-head and two a-ſtern of their Admiral, and fired very ſmartly till after Three; ſo that the Admiral and his two Seconds (Mr. *Churchill* and Mr. *Aylmer*) had ſix or ſeven Ships to deal

deal with at this very time. About Four a Clock there was ſo thick a Fog, that not a Ship of the *French* could be ſeen, and therefore all Firing ceas'd; but it clearing up in a little time, Monſieur *Tourville* was diſcover'd towing away Northward, upon which the Admiral took the ſame Method of coming up with him, and ordered all his Diviſion to do the like: And about half an Hour after Five, there being a ſmall Breeze of Wind Eaſterly, the Signal was made for Chaſing, and Notice ſent to all Ships within reach that the Enemy were retiring.

At this time ſeveral Broadſides were heard Weſtward, and tho' the Ships that fired could not be ſeen, it was concluded they were our Blue Squadron, that by a ſhift of Wind had weather'd the *French*; but it proved to be the Rear-Admiral of the Red (Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*) who had weather'd their Admiral's own Squadron, and got between them and their Admiral of the Blue, and after firing ſome time, Monſieur *Tourville*, as well as the ſaid Rear-Admiral, came to Anchor with ſome of the Ships of their Diviſions, but could not diſcover each other by reaſon of the thickneſs of the Weather. At this juncture Captain *Haſtings*, who commanded

manded the *Sandwich*, a Second Rate, was kill'd, driving through thoſe Ships of the Enemy by reaſon his Anchors were not clear.

Things being now in great confuſion, the Admiral thought it moſt proper to order all the Ships he could think were near him to chaſe Weſtward all Night, and to let them know that he did intend to follow the *French* to *Breſt*, believing it more proper ſo to do than to Anchor; and ſo it proved; for the next Morning he found himſelf nearer the Enemy, and to Windward of thoſe Ships that had dropt their Anchors.

About Eight at Night there was Firing Weſtward, which laſted about half an Hour, part of our Blue Squadron having fallen in with ſome of the Enemy's Ships in the Fog: And in this Diſpute Rear-Admiral *Carter* was killed, whoſe laſt Words to his then Captain (Captain *William Wright*) did ſufficiently ſhew, that there was little Reaſon to ſuſpect his Zeal to the Service; for he recommended it to him to fight the Ship ſo long as ſhe could ſwim.

It continued Foggy with very little Wind all Night, and the next Morning 'twas ſo Hazey, that none of the Enemy's, and but very few of our own Ships, could be ſeen; but about Eight

it

it clearing up, the *Dutch*, who were Southward, made the Signal of ſeeing the *French* Fleet, and ſoon after about 34 Sail were diſcover'd between two and three Leagues off, the Wind being then at E. N. E, and they bearing W. S. W.

Our Fleet chaſed them with all the Sail that could be made, and not in a Line of Battel as they did ours after the *Beachy* Fight; for the Signal for a Line was taken in, that ſo every Ship might make the beſt of her way. Between Eleven and Twelve of the Clock the Wind veer'd to the S. W, and the *French* crowded away Weſtward, and we after them; but about Four in the Afternoon, the Tide of Ebb being done, both Fleets anchor'd, Cape *Barfleur* bearing S. by W, but weighed again about Ten at Night and ply'd Weſtward; and near Twelve our Admiral's Fore Topmaſt came by the Board, being ſhot in ſeveral places. *Our Fleet chaſe the French.*

He continued plying Weſtward after the *French* Fleet till Four the next Morning, and then, the Tide of Ebb being done, anchor'd in 46 Fathom, Cape *de Hague* bearing S. by W, and the Iſland of *Alderney* S. S. W; but by reaſon of the Admiral's wanting a Topmaſt, the *Dutch* Squadron and the Admiral of the Blue,

Blue, with ſeveral of his Ships, got conſiderably to Windward of him.

Several French Ships cut near the Race, and are purſued.

About Seven in the Morning part of the *French* Ships, being far advanced towards the *Race*, were perceived driving Eaſtward with the Tide of Flood, having not Ground-Tackle to ride by, for they had the Day they engaged, and the Morning after, cut away all their heavy Anchors. When they were driven ſo far as that the Admiral judged he could reach them, he cauſed the Signal to be made for the Ships neareſt him to cut and chaſe them, which they did; but Sir *John Aſhby* with his Diviſion, and ſeveral *Dutch* Ships who were Weathermoſt, rid faſt to obſerve the Motion of the reſt of the *French* that continued at Anchor in the Race of *Alderney*, according to the Signal that was given him ſo to do.

The Dutch Admiral and Sir John Aſhby ordered to look after them that rid faſt.

The Royal Sun, and two more of their biggeſt Ships burnt at Cherbrooke.

Three of their great Ships being fair under the Shoar, tack'd about Eleven a Clock and ſtood Weſtward, but, after making two or three ſhort Boards, the biggeſt of them (being the *Royal Sun*) ran aſhoar, and preſently cut her Maſts away, and the other two to Leeward (which were the *French* Admiral's Seconds) ply'd up to her. This it was judg'd they did, becauſe they could not weather our Weſtermoſt Ships,

Ships, nor get out a-head Eaſtward. The Admiral obſerving that many Ships of the Fleet hover'd about them, ſent to Sir *Ralph Delavall*, Vice-Admiral of the Red, who was in the Rear, to keep a Strength with him ſufficient to deſtroy them, and to order the reſt to follow the Body of the Fleet; which Service Sir *Ralph* did effectually perform.

About Four in the Afternoon, 18 Sail of the *French*, being got Eaſtward of Cape *Barfleur*, hawled in for *La Hogue*, where our Ships anchor'd about Ten at Night, and lay till near Four the next Morning; at which time the Admiral weighed again, and ſtood in near the Land, but the Flood coming on, he anchor'd. At Two in the Afternoon he weighed again, and plied cloſe in with *La Hogue*, where were 13 Sail of the Enemy's Ships hawled in very near to the Shoar.

Monday the 23d of *May*, 1692, the Admiral ſent in Sir *George Rooke*, then Vice-Admiral of the Blue, with ſeveral Men of War, Fireſhips, and the Boats of the Fleet, to deſtroy thoſe Ships; but they had got them ſo far in, that none but the ſmall Frigats could do any Service: However, Sir *George* himſelf went in with the Boats, and

Many more of their Ships of War burnt at La Hogue.

burnt 6 of them that Night, and about Eight the next Morning burnt the other 7, together with ſeveral Tranſport Ships, and ſome ſmall Veſſels with Ammunition, wherein not only all the Officers (among whom my Lord *Carmarthen* ſignalized himſelf) but the Men behaved themſelves with greateſt Reſolution and Gallantry. At *La Hogue* and *Cherbrooke* were burnt (as is before related) two Ships of 104 Guns each, one of 90, two of 80, four of 76, four of 60, and two of 56 Guns, from which time, to the Peace that was concluded 1697, the *French* did not look us in the Face at Sea, but contented themſelves to prejudice our Trade, by their ſmaller Ships of War, and Privateers.

The French *Ships eſcape the* Dutch *Admiral and Sir* John Aſhby, *who join the Fleet.*

This Service being over, the Admiral ſailed out of *La Hogue* Bay the 25th, and ordered Sir *John Aſhby*, Admiral of the Blue, (who was return'd without doing any Execution on the other part of the *French* Fleet) with a Squadron of *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships, to run along the *French* Coaſt as far as *Havre de Grace*, and look out for the five Ships which (as he ſaid) he ſaw ſtand Eaſtward: But he came back without meeting them.

The

The Reſolution of the *French* in bearing down upon our Fleet was not a little ſurpriſing; for they were not above 50 Ships, from 104 to 56 Guns; and I am apt to think, it did at firſt occaſion ſome jealouſy among us: But, if ſo, it was ſoon blown over, every one endeavouring to do what he was able. As for Monſieur *Tourville*'s running this Hazard, I can attribute it to no other Reaſon, than his Maſter's Poſitive Orders to fight the *Engliſh* Fleet; a Thing he might have otherwiſe avoided, nay even after we ſaw each other, for he was ſeveral Leagues to Windward: And, as I am credibly informed, all his Flag Officers, who were called together and conſulted, did unanimouſly give their Opinions not to Engage, but that at laſt he produced an Order under the *French* King's own Hand, which ſhew'd them the Neceſſity of doing it.

Remarks upon the Reſolution of the French in bearing down to Engage.

Doubtleſs thoſe Orders were given him, upon a Preſumption that our great Ships, and the *Dutch*, could not poſſibly join Sir *Ralph Delavall*, and Rear-Admiral *Carter*'s Squadron, (then cruizing on their Coaſt) before they had opportunity of coming up with them: And had not Mr. *Ruſſel* ſailed from the River, even at the very time he did, contrary to the Advice of all

the Pilots, (as I have already ſaid) the Winds that afterwards happened would have prevented his coming time enough to their Aſſiſtance; ſo that the *French* might, in all probability, have had equal, if not greater, Succeſs over us, than we had on them: But yet the *French* Court (by what Means I know not) had ſuch early Notice of our great Ships ſailing from the River, that I durſt pawn my Credit, the Veſſel which Captain *Wivell* took off of Cape *Barfleur*, had Orders from the *French* King to Monſieur *Tourville*, contradicting thoſe Poſitive Inſtructions he had received for Fighting our Fleet; but the Maſter of the Veſſel concealed the Packet, by throwing it over-board, when he found himſelf in danger of being taken. To this may be added, that Providence concern'd it ſelf for the Safety of the two Squadrons before-mention'd; for ſeveral Days before the great Ships join'd them, the *French* Fleet was got into the Chanel as high as the *Start*, but were forced from their Anchors into the Sea by a ſtrong Eaſterly Wind; ſo as by this Means they were prevented in making their deſigned Attempt, they were a ſecond time interrupted in doing it, by the conjunction of the Fleet: And had they met

met with Succeſs in this well-grounded Undertaking, the Forces that were in readineſs at *La Hogue*, and the adjacent Places, would not have been long out of our Country; though if, when there, they had behaved themſelves no better than they did in the Defence of their Ships, when burnt, there would not have been much Miſchief done; for notwithſtanding their Numbers, and the Opportunity they had of making Reſiſtance, the whole Service was performed without the loſs of 10 Men, except ſome that were accidentally blown up in one of our Long Boats. *The Beating the French Fleet prevented their Deſcent on England.*

And here it may be obſerved, without vanity, that although our Fleet was conſiderably ſtronger than Theirs, yet they were beaten by an inferior Number: For by reaſon of the Calm, and the thickneſs of the Weather, it was not poſſible for many of the *Dutch* Ships, or of the *Blue* Squadron, to Engage; whereas had we been favoured with clear Weather, and a Gale of Wind, it would have been next to an impoſſibility for any one of the *French* Ships to have eſcaped. *The Enemy beaten by a leſs Number of Ships.*

It is not improbable but that the *French*, foreſeeing this, might in ſome meaſure be daunted, and that it occaſion'd their Retreat ſooner than otherwiſe they

would have done; but conſidering with what deliberation they bore down, and how warmly they ply'd us, there was little reaſon to think that our Strength baulk'd their Reſolution, ſince they had their Maſter's poſitive Commands.

Obſervation upon the Enemy's eſcaping the Dutch *Admiral and Sir* J. Aſhby.

Having now given an Account of the Battel, and of the Succeſs on the Ships the Admiral himſelf chaſed, I cannot proceed, without lamenting the Eſcape of thoſe which the *Dutch*, and our Admiral of the *Blue* were left to look after. I ſhall not lay the want of Judgment, Diligence, or ought elſe, to any one's charge; but ſince ſo fair an Opportunity was offered, for deſtroying the moſt conſiderable Part of the *French* King's Navy, ſuch ill Succeſs in that Affair was the greateſt Misfortune to us; for had a happy Puſh been made, the Naval Force of *France* could not in this Age, whatever it might in the next, have given *England* any uneaſineſs.

The Fleet comes to St. Hellens, *and thereby eſcape very bad Weather.*

Since all hopes of meeting them were now groundleſs, the Admiral reſolved to repair with the Fleet to *St. Hellens*, and that Determination was happily put in execution; for ſuch was the ſudden extremity of Weather, that had the Fleet kept the Sea, they would have been expoſed to very great Danger, eſpecially

cially thoſe Ships that had, in the Battel, received conſiderable damage in their Maſts. But before he left the *French* Coaſt, he ordered Sir *John Aſhby* with 12 *Engliſh* Ships, and 3 Fireſhips, in conjunction with as many *Dutch*, commanded by Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, to proceed off of *Havre*, and endeavour to deſtroy ſeveral *French* Ships ſaid to be in thoſe Parts, wherein their Endeavours met with no Succeſs, becauſe they had harboured themſelves before.

Sir John Aſhby *ſent to deſtroy ſome Ships off of* Havre *but they were Harboured.*

The Court of *France* being now very much allarm'd, the Admiral propoſed it as the moſt proper time for making the intended Deſcent; for although not only King *James* himſelf, but the *French* alſo, had great numbers of Men encamped at *La Hogue*, and the adjacent Places; yet the little interruption they gave us in deſtroying their Ships, might induce any one to believe, that a Body of Men would have made a conſiderable Progreſs into their Country, with little or no Oppoſition. In the mean while the refitting the Fleet was diligently carried on; and altho' the *French*, had they join'd, would have made 90 Ships, from 104 to 50 Guns, yet conſidering what part of them were deſtroy'd, 70 Sail of good Ships, *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, were thought ſufficient for

The Admiral propoſed to make the intended Deſcent at this time.

any Service the remaining part of this Year; not but that it was probable the *French* would come out again, and make a Floriſh; but yet there was little reaſon to believe they would expoſe themſelves to a ſecond Misfortune in one Summer.

Orders given for Embarking the French Forces ſo ſoon as their Fleet came into the Channel.

Very lucky 'twas for *England* that our Fleet did ſo opportunely join; for no ſooner had Monſieur *Tourville* ſent an Expreſs of his being on the *French* Coaſt, but Orders were diſpatched for the Army's Embarking, which they might have done, and been ſafely wafted over to *England*; for as their Strength was much ſuperior to the Squadrons with Sir *Ralph Delavall* and Rear-Admiral *Carter*, ſo would they have run but little hazard from our great Ships, which muſt unavoidably have remain'd Wind-bound in the River, had they not ſailed from thence the very Moment they did: At leaſt the Enemy might have hinder'd a Conjunction.

The 12th of *June*, in the Afternoon, there came into the Fleet a Ketch from *Dartmouth*, that in her paſſage met with a Privateer called the *Cloudeſly Galley*, and had three Men put on board her, who were taken by the ſaid Galley out of a *French* Snaw. This Veſſel was ſent out to gain Intelligence of our Fleet, and

and then immediately to return to ſuch Port in *France* as ſhe could firſt fetch, and ſend away an Expreſs to *St. Malo*. The Maſter gave an Account, That there was at the ſaid Port the Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and 25 Ships of War more, great and ſmall, including Fireſhips; that they had pretty well repair'd the Damage they receiv'd in Fight, and watch'd an Opportunity to get from thence to *Breſt*. Upon this the Admiral ſailed from *St. Hellens* the 14th of *June*, with ſuch part of the Fleet as was in the beſt Condition, and ordered Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* to follow with the remainder. His deſign was to keep Weſtward of *St. Malo*, to prevent the Ships getting from thence to *Breſt*, and when he came to a proper Station, to conſult with the Flag-Officers, what might be attempted againſt them: And on the 21ſt he received Advice, that all the Tranſport Ships were ordered to *Portſmouth*, where 'twas intended the Forces ſhould Embark.

The Admiral gets Advice of the Enemy's Ships getting into St. Mallo.

The Fleet ſails to prevent their getting to Breſt.

He was of opinion, that the *French* Ships might get out of *St. Malo*, and go North about, if they would venture on ſo dangerous a Navigation, unleſs our Ships could anchor and ride it out before that Port, which he determined to know from the Pilots: But even if this

this could be effected, he was apprehenſive it would occaſion their drawing all their Forces to the Succour of the Place and their Ships, and that thereby our Attempt, both by Sea and Land, would be render'd more uncertain.

A Council of War called, in relation to the Land Forces.

The 25th of *June*, 1692. a Council of War was called in *Torbay* of all the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Flags. It was occaſion'd upon advice the Admiral had received, that all our Troops were ordered to *Portſmouth*, and that Her Majeſty would give no Directions for the diſpoſal of them, till the Flags and General Officers of the Army had conſulted, and tranſmitted to Her their Opinion. The Council of War took into conſideration how the Fleet might ſooneſt, and with moſt certainty, join the Tranſport Ships, that then it might be debated how to attempt the Enemy at *St. Malo*; and it was agreed, that a conſiderable part of the Fleet ſhould be appointed to lie about 15 or 20 Leagues North from the Iſle of *Baſſe*, to intercept the *French* Ships, ſhould they attempt going from *St. Malo* to *Breſt*, and that the remainder of the Fleet ſhould forthwith ſail to *Spithead* to join the Tranſports: But it was further reſolved, That if the Winds happened to hang Weſterly, the whole Fleet ſhould ſail

to

to *Spithead* to join the ſaid Tranſports, or, if Eaſterly, to continue in *Torbay* in expectation of them.

The Eaſtern Ports of *France* were at this time in great want of Neceſſaries for Life, ſuch as Salt, Wine, Brandy, and other Commodities, which our Cruizers prevented their Tranſporting from one Place to another; for ſome Ships that were ſent to cruize off of the *Forn-head*, burnt a great Fly-boat of about 400 Tuns, loaden with thoſe Conveniencies, and could not have miſs'd the taking or deſtroying many more, under convoy of two Men of War, had they not precipitately Harboured themſelves, in ſome little Places on their Coaſt where they could not be attempted.

The Fleet being now at Sea, the Winds came up at N. N. W, and blew for a conſiderable time ſo very hard, that it drove them near 20 Leagues Weſtward of *Uſhant*, which Iſland they weathered not above five Leagues, and ſeveral of the Ships received damage in their Maſts and Rigging. This Accident may ſerve as another Argument, that the great Ships, and ſuch Numbers too, ought not to be ventured at Sea, but where they may have room to drive for 48 Hours any way, or let go an

The Fleet expoſed in a Storm near Uſhant.

an Anchor, and ride; for ſix Hours with a ſhift of Wind makes either ſide of the Chanel a Lee-ſhore; and had not the Admiral luckily brought-to early in the Morning, I am apt to think a Melancholly Account would have been given of the Fleet. However, this Storm being over, he arrived in the Road of *Guernſey* the 3d of *July*, where he was conſtrain'd to Anchor; for, the the Weather being thick, the Pilots would not venture over to *St. Mallo*; nor was there a little reaſon to ſuſpect their Judgment; but that which gave the Admiral the greateſt Uneaſineſs, was the Account he received from two Captains who had long uſed that Trade, that there was not good Ground for more than 40 Ships to ride: ſo that he called a Council of War, to conſider whether it might be moſt proper for the whole Fleet to go over, or to ſend a Detachment to view the Place, and they came to the following Reſolution, *viz.* That Part of the Fleet ſhould proceed off of *St. Mallo*, and bring an Account whether the whole, or what numbers thereof might ride there. Accordingly Vice-Admiral *Rooke* was ſent with a Squadron, in conjunction with Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, who commanded the *Dutch* Detachment.

The Admiral arrives in Guernſey *Road.*

Part of the Fleet ſent to obſerve how many Ships might ride off of St. Mallo's.

The

The *Engliſh* Court was at this time under great Uneaſineſs, leſt the *French* Ships ſhould get from *St. Malo* to *Breſt*, and therefore Her Majeſty was very intent upon having them Attack'd; but though eight Days were advanced in *July*, the Tranſport Ships were not arrived at *Portſmouth* from the River; and in regard the *French* (whatever we could do) might have met with many Opportunities of getting out, the Admiral was of Opinion, that the moſt probable way of intercepting them, was the Fleet riding in *Camoret* Bay, in caſe it could be certainly depended on that they were deſigned for *Breſt*.

Delay made in the Tranſports coming to Portſmouth.

The Fleet was by bad Weather forced to *Torbay*, where the Admiral did impatiently expect the Return of Sir *George Rooke*; and the rather, for that the late Winds gave him ſome Apprehenſions of him, conſidering the Danger of that Coaſt; Nor did he think himſelf under a little Streight, ſince when the Fleet and Army joined, a Reſolution was then to be taken what to do; whereas it would have been much more for the Service, had ſomething been determined in that Matter before the Conjunction; ſince, if the Forces were obliged to keep the Sea till the Place for action was determined, bad Wea-

The Fleet forced to Torbay.

The Admiral was under ſome uneaſineſs that it was not determin'd what to attempt with the Forces.

Weather might have expoſed them to hardſhips, and conſequently render'd them of little Service on Shore: And as for *St. Malo*, it was reaſonable to think that half the Number of Men a Month before, would have perform'd more than the whole Body intended now; for as the Enemy's Fears were then greater, ſo, doubtleſs, their preparations for Safety were afterwards carried on with all poſſible Induſtry.

Sir Geo. Rooke returns from St. Malo's, and gives an Account of that Place.

The 13th of *July*, 1692, Sir *George Rooke* returned from *St. Malo*, who (beſides the Report he made of the ſeveral Soundings near that Place) gave the Admiral his Opinion and Obſervations of the Coaſt thereabouts, which may not be improper to inſert in his own words, *viz.*

I. *THE Ground is flat and even from* Guernſey *to Cape* Farrel, *ſhoaling a Fathom or two every two or three Miles, all the way over to the Cape. The Ground is generally very rough, and in ſome places rocky; eſpecially near* St. Cymbre.

II. *The Tides run very quick in the* Offing *on the Coaſt of* St. Malo's; *but to the Eaſtward of Cape* Farrel, *within* 3 *or* 4 *Miles of the Shore, not above two and a half or three Knots at Spring Tides.*

III. *There*

III. *There are ſome Sandy Bays between Cape* Farrel *and* St. Malo's, *but not very Commodious for landing Men, becauſe the Land riſes in moſt places quick from the Strand; beſides, the River* Dinant *muſt be paſs'd before they can come to* St. Malo.

IV. *There are about* 35 *or* 36 *Sail of Ships rigg'd, of which* 12 *lay in the* Ranſe, *and of them four or five great Ships; the reſt being up at* Salidore.

V. *Not one of the Pilots would undertake to carry in any Ship of War or Fire-ſhips, to make any Attempt on the* French *Ships at* St. Malo, *though I offered* 100 l. *Encouragement to each Man;*

July 13. 1692. G. Rooke.

Upon this a Council of War was called, and, according to agreement, the Fleet ſailed from *Torbay* the 15th, but care was taken the Day before to place Ships on the Coaſt of *France* in the manner following; Capt. *Nevil* in the *Kent* was ſent with 30 Ships, *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, 10 Leagues North from the Weſt-end of the Iſle of *Baſſe*: The *Adventure* and *Sandadoes* were ordered to lie between *Breack* and the *Seven Iſlands*; The *James* Galley and *Greyhound* between the *Seven Iſlands* and *La Baſſe*; two *Dutch* Frigats between that and the *Forne*;

The Fleet ſails from Torbay, *but a conſiderable part of it placed to intercept the* St. Malo *Ships.*

Forme; and all theſe ſmall Frigats, as well as thoſe with Captain *Nevil*, were ordered to lie cloſe in with the Shore. This the Admiral judged would moſt effectually impede the Paſſage of any thing Eaſtward or Weſtward from *St. Malo*; and the remaining part of the Fleet either lay in a proper Station, or cruized, as Winds and Weather would permit.

From the 14th to the 18th, no Advice came from Captain *Nevil*, ſo that it was concluded the *French* had not attempted to puſh Weſtward from *St. Malo* with the laſt Eaſterly Wind; and it was generally believed that they would not ſtir till towards Winter, for then we could not be ſo well able to keep the Sea, in order to intercept them. About this time the *James* Galley brought into the Fleet a Privateer of *St. Malo*, which ſhe took off of the Land's-End, the Captain whereof reported, That Orders had been ſeveral times ſent for diſarming the Ships at *Breſt*, but that they were commonly contradicted in two Days after. This Privateer came from *St. Malo* the Day before Sir *George Rooke* was before that Port, and ſaid, 'twas then intended that Eight of their Men of War ſhould Winter there.

The

The 18th and 19th, the Wind was Weſterly, with a continual Fog; and the Admiral fearing it might put him Eaſtward of *Torbay*, thought it moſt adviſeable to repair thither, where he took in the Proviſions juſt arrived, and thereby prevented the Inconvenience that might have attended their being ſeparated from the Fleet. His Intentions were to put to Sea again as ſoon as 'twas poſſible, that ſo he might relieve the Squadron on the *French* Coaſt, which was in want both of Proviſions and Water; but before he was able to ſail, he received Orders from the Queen relating to the Deſcent, and on the 25th of *July* conſulted with the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Flag Officers thereupon, by whom it was agreed in what manner the Fleet might beſt join the Tranſports, according as Wind and Weather ſhould happen; and that no time might be loſt in the improving this Buſineſs to the beſt advantage, the Admiral ſent an Expreſs to the Duke of *Leinſter* (now Duke *Schonberg*) letting him know, that if the Wind continued Weſterly, he would come with the Fleet to the Tranſports at *Spithead*, but if Eaſterly, he had determined to remain for them in *Torbay*. He was not a little uneaſie at the delay that had been made in this

The Fleet returns to Torbay *and takes in Proviſions.*

A Conſultation how the Fleet might beſt join the Tranſports.

Affair; for when 'twas under conſideration in the Winter, it was reſolved all things ſhould be ready in *May* at furtheſt, and had that been complied with, there would have been much more probability of Succeſs. But even now, late as it was, the General Officers had no account of the poſture of Affairs at *St. Malo*; nor was there indeed any Reſolution taken at Court, what the Forces ſhould do when Embarked, otherwiſe than that it was recommended to a Council of War (as I have ſaid before) to conſider what might be done at *Breſt*. However, the Tranſport Ships being join'd, a Council of War was called the 28th of *July*, on board the *Bredah*, at which were preſent the Admiral himſelf, and the ſeveral Perſons following, *viz.*

A Council of War of Sea and Land Officers upon joining the Tranſports.

Flag Officers.

Engliſh.

Sir *Ralph Delaval*, Vice-Admiral of the Red.

George Rooke Eſq; Vice-Admiral of the Blue.

Sir *Cloudeſly Shovel*, Rear-Admiral of the Red.

David Mitchel Eſq; Flag

Flag Officers.

Dutch.

Admiral *Almonde.*
Vice-Admiral *Callemberg.*
Rear-Admiral *Vandergoes.*
Rear-Admiral *Evertſen.*
Rear-Admiral *Muys.*

General and Field Officers.

His Grace the Duke of *Leinſter*, Lieutenant-General of all the Forces.
Earl of *Galloway.*
Sir *Henry Bellaſiſe.*
Monſieur *Le Meloniere.*
Sir *David Collier.*
Colonel *Beveridge.*
Monſieur *du Cambon.*
Colonel *Selwin.*
Earl of *Argile.*

And ſince I cannot better explain the Senſe of thoſe Gentlemen, than by giving the Reader a Copy of the Paper that was Signed by them, I have therefore inſerted the ſame, as follows;

The Manner of burning the Ships at St. Malo being maturely conſidered, and Vice-Admiral *Rooke* and Vice-Admiral [illegible] (who were lately ſent with a Squadron of Ships before that Port) repreſenting the great Difficulty of carrying Ships in there, by reaſon of the multitude of Rocks, the rapidity of the Tides, and the Pilots refuſing to conduct any Frigats or Fireſhips into the Harbour, becauſe the Marks might be removed; It is the Opinion of the Flag-Officers, that it is not practicable to attempt any thing againſt the Enemy's Ships at St. *Malo*'s with any part of the Fleet, till the Town it ſelf be ſo far reduced by the Land Forces, as that the Ships which ſhall be ſent in may receive no great annoyance from the Enemy's Guns in the Attempt: And the General and Field Officers of the Army are of Opinion, that they are not capable to do any Service at that Place, without the aſſiſtance of the Fleet.

It was then conſidered, whether it was feiſible to attempt any thing on the Enemy's Ships at *Breſt*; and though the Flag-Officers are of

of Opinion, That an Attempt might be made there with ſome hopes of Succeſs, provided the Summer Seaſon was not ſo far ſpent; yet conſidering how far the Seaſon of the Year is now advanced, they do not think it fit to attempt any thing againſt the Enemy's Ships in that Port, in regard the Fleet may be expoſed to very great Inconveniencies, ſhould they be Wind-bound near that Place: And it is the Opinion of the General and Field-Officers of the Army, That they cannot be able to do any Service againſt the Enemy there, unleſs they could be protected by the Fleet.

They think it not fit to attempt them at Breſt, *the Winter Seaſon being advanced.*

And it is alſo the Opinion of the Flag-Officers, That 'tis not ſafe for the Fleet to attempt any thing againſt the Enemy at *Rochfort*, the Seaſon of the Year being ſo far ſpent, and the Place it ſelf lying ſo far in the Bay.

Nor at Rochfort.

It was then conſidered, whether the Fleet might lie with ſafety on the Coaſt of *Normandy*, to protect the Army in any Attempt that may be made either at *Hœvre de Grace*, *La Hogue*, or any Place belonging to the Enemy thereabouts; And

Determined to lie on the Coaſt of Normandy *to protect the Army*

the Flag-Officers are of Opinion, That the Fleet may lie with ſafety on that Coaſt till towards the latter end of the next Month, in caſe their Majeſty's Service ſhould require it: And 'tis reſolved the Fleet lie on the ſaid Coaſt accordingly.

Beſides theſe Reſolutions of a Genetal Council of War of Sea and Land Officers, the Flags themſelves came to the following Determination.

The Sea Officers of Opinion 'twas too late in the Year for the Fleet to go to Breſt, *or* Rochfort.

That in regard the Tranſport Ships with the Land Forces were come to the Fleet, in order to try what might be attempted againſt the Enemy, either at *St. Malo*, *Breſt*, or *Rochfort*, it was their Opinion, that ſome thing might be attempted with probability of Succeſs, was not the Seaſon of the Year ſo far ſpent, as not to admit of the Fleet's going with ſafety to ſee whether or no any thing might be done at thoſe Places.

Sir John Aſhby *ſent with a Squadron towards the Iſle of* Baſſe.

Purſuant to what was determined, the following Orders were given to Sir *John Aſhby*, That he ſhould ſail with one Firſt Rate, 6 Seconds, 17 Thirds, one Fourth, and four Fireſhips, together with ſeveral *Dutch* Ships, over to the Coaſt of *France*, and lie with the Body of

of his Squadron about 15 Leagues North from the Weſt-end of the Iſle of *Baſſe*, and by placing ſome of the Ships nearer to the Shore, endeavour to prevent the *French* paſſing from *St. Malo* to *Breſt*: But he was cautioned to look out carefully for any of the Enemy's Ships that might be coming from the Weſt. In this Station he was to continue till further Orders, for which he was directed to ſend to *Dartmouth* by all convenient opportunities: And if he joined the Ships with Captain *Nevil*, he was from them to encreaſe his Squadron of *Engliſh* Ships to 30, and ſend the remainder to *St. Hellens*, with a Weſterly Wind, or if Eaſterly, to *Torbay*, that ſo they might join the Body of the Fleet.

On this Service he Cruiſed ſo long as Weather would permit, and then came in without meeting any of the Enemy's Ships; and being at *Spithead* the 14th of *September*, the Collector at *Cowes* ſent to him the Maſter of a *French* Tartan, taken ſome days before off of *Portland*. This Man gave an Account, That he came out of *St. Malo*'s the 7th Day of this very Month, in company with a Vice-Admiral, and 16 Ships of War, from 60 to 80 Guns, and 6 Fire-ſhips, which by reaſon of little Wind anchored under Cape *Furrell*, and re-

mained there till the 10th, and then, at ſix in the Morning, ſailed with the Wind at E. by S. for *Breſt*.

In fine, although upon the Admiral's parting with Sir *John Aſhby*, it was agreed at a Council of War, to proceed to the *French* Coaſt off of *La Hogue*, and thereabouts; yet in his paſſage from *Torbay* he met with Orders from the Queen, and thereupon the Fleet, with the Tranſport Ships, came to *St. Hellens*, where lying a conſiderable time Wind-bound, and the Winter Seaſon being far advanced, the great Ships were ordered about, the Land Forces landed, and the Fleet divided into Squadrons, according as was judged moſt for the Advantage of the Service.

A Squadron prepared for the Weſt Indies, *under Command of Sir* Francis Wheler.

In the Month of *November*, 1692, a Squadron was ordered to be got ready for Service in the *Weſt-Indies*, which was compoſed of two Third Rates, ſix Fourths, three Fifths, one Sixth, three Fireſhips, a Storeſhip, an Hoſpital, and a Bomb-Veſſel, and about 1500 Soldiers were put on board of them, and Tranſports particularly appointed. Sir *Francis Wheler* was the Perſon made choice of for commanding this Squadron, and received Inſtructions the 25th Day of the aforeſaid Month of *November*, from the Lords of the Admiralty, how to govern

govern himſelf, not only in proceeding to, but alſo when he ſhould be in the *Weſt-Indies*, and was there at liberty to take under his command three other Fourth Rates, namely the *Norwich*, *Diamond*, and *Mordaunt*; but beſides theſe Inſtructions, he received others from His Majeſty, directing what Places belonging to the Enemy he ſhould attempt, and in what manner he ſhould act in conjunction with the Land Forces, which were commanded by Colonel *Foulkes*.

It was the beginning of *January* before this Squadron could be entirely got ready, and then the Commadore ſailed with them, and all his Train, and arrived off of *Dartmouth* the 9th, having received Power (for the greater Grace of the Expedition, from which ſo much was hoped) to put abroad the Union-Flag at the Main-top-maſt-head, ſo ſoon as he ſhould be out of the *Soundings*.

The 26th of *January*, 1692, he reach'd the *Maderas*, and having taken in Water, ſailed from thence the 29th, and arrived at *Carliſle* Bay in *Barbadoes* the 1ſt of *March* following, where he was joined by ſeveral Ships that ſeparated from him in his Paſſage. *The Squadron arrives at* Maderas.

Reſolution to attack Martinico. A Council of War, which was here called, determined to attack *Martinico*, and two Regiments were joined to about 800 Land-men found at *Barbadoes*, commanded by Colonel *Salter*, and Colonel *Butler*. There was advice of this ſent to Colonel *Coddringtan*, General of the Leeward Iſlands, and he was deſired to cauſe the Forces in thoſe Parts to meet the reſt with all ſpeed under the Lee of *Martinico*. And yet further to ſtrengthen theſe Forces, upon occaſions of Service, there was formed a Battalion of Seamen, of which the Commadore was himſelf to be Colonel, and Captain *Hawkins* Lieutenant-Colonel.

A Council of War called. The Squadron arriving at *Cull de Sack Royal* in *Martinico*, the 15th of *April*, a General Council of War was called, of Sea and Land Officers; and the Queſtion being put, Whether the Soldiers ſhould land firſt, and deſtroy Fort *St. Piere*, and the Plantations thereabouts, or begin with Fort *Royal*, it was agreed to land at or near Fort *St. Piere*, and that the Fleet ſhould privately ſail the next Morning, for countenancing this Attempt.

Another Council of War. Being before the Town of *St. Piere*, the 20th of *April*, another Council of War was called, and a Debate ariſing, Whether a cloſe Siege ſhould be laid, and

and an Attack made on the Town and Fort of *St. Piere*, or retire with the Forces on Ship-board, and there conſider further what was fit to be done: It was moved by the Preſident, (Sir *Francis Wheler*) that every Man ſhould give his Opinion in Writing.

Thus each Officer, both by Sea and Land, took the Matter into Conſideration, and having drawn up their Reaſons, and Signed them, they were delivered in. Few there were, among them all, if any, except Sir *Francis Wheler* himſelf, and, I think, Lieutenant-Colonel *Colt*, who were for making this Attempt, but rather to retire, and land in ſome other Place, in order to ſpoil the Enemy. *Reaſons for not attacking Fort St. Piere.*

Some, nay moſt of thoſe Gentlemen, alledged, that the *French* were ſuperior to our Forces; and that at leaſt one Third of our Men being *Iriſh* Papiſts, there could be but very little truſt put in them; and 'twas likewiſe alledged, That the greateſt Number of our People had not born Arms before this Expedition.

Other Objections there were, That the Roads were almoſt unpaſſable, and the Hills inacceſſible; and that the Attempt would not only too much expoſe our Men to the Enemy, but to Sickneſs alſo,

alſo, by reaſon of the Fatigue; 800 of the 3000 (including the *Iriſh*) being either found killed, wounded, or ſick, within three Days after Landing.

Others there were, and particularly General *Coddrington*, who were of Opinion, That ſhould our Army be beaten, it would be almoſt impoſſible to retreat on board the Ships; by which means they apprehended, that not only *Barbadoes*, but the Leeward Iſlands, would be, in a very great degree, expoſed to the Enemy; for that the moſt of the Forces were drawn from thoſe Places for this Service.

Reſolved to ſail to Dominico.

In fine, it was reſolved at a Council of War held the 22d of *April*, 1693, that the Army ſhould Embark, and the Squadron ſail to *Dominico* to Water, and Refreſh the Men, who at this time were but in very indifferent Circumſtances of Health.

Reſolved not to attack Guardalupe.

At *Dominico* another Council of War was called on the 25th of *April*, and the Queſtion was put whether they ſhould attack *Guardalupe*. It was carried by a great Majority in the Negative; and thereupon it was reſolved to ſend home all the Forces belonging to *Barbadoes* and the Leeward Iſlands, with proper Convoys, and that the Squadron ſhould proceed to and rendezvous at

St.

St. Chriſtophers, to take in Water, and refreſh the ſick Men.

Sir *Francis Wheler* did indeed take into conſideration, the great Charge the Crown had been at on this Expedition, and was therefore of Opinion, that the Place ought to be immediately attack'd; and General *Coddrington* was alſo of the ſame Mind, as was Colonel *Foulkes*, provided the Squadron and Army could remain there ſix Weeks, or two Months, to bring in and carry off the Inhabitants; for in leſs time than that, it was believed it could not be effected, by reaſon that the Enemy were as ſtrong, or rather ſtronger, here, than at *St. Piere*; but Sir *Francis* informing them, That the King had poſitively ordered the Fleet ſhould not continue in thoſe Parts longer than the laſt of *May*, and the Forces belonging to *Barbadoes* preſſing very earneſtly to be gone, the Squadron ſailed to the Leeward Iſlands, where they ſtaid ſome time to refreſh themſelves, and then bent their Courſe to *New England*, and arrived at *Boſton* the 12th of *June*, Colonel *Foulkes* dying ſoon after he came on board in the Road of *St. Chriſtophers*. *The Squadron arrives at New-England*

Sir *Francis Wheler*, according to the Commands he had received from His Majeſty, propoſed to Sir *William Phips*, Gover-

Governor of *New England*, the going to and attempting *Quebeck*; but he having not had any prævious Advice thereof, which he ſaid he ought to have had four Months before, ſo as to have got all things ready; and that Expedition requiring the Squadron's ſailing by the firſt of *July*, and a ſtrength of 4000 Men, at leaſt, which very much exceeded the Numbers we had, that Affair ſunk: So that on the firſt of *July* the recovered Men began to Embark, and the 3d of *Auguſt* the Squadron ſailed from *Boſton*.

Reaſons for not attempting Quebeck.

The Commadore being deſirous to do ſomething, though in ſo weak a Condition, before he reach'd *England*, ſteer'd for *Newfoundland*, and arrived at *Placentia* the 18th of *Auguſt*. He was informed, that the *French* were very ſtrong there, not only in large Privateers, (for in the whole Expedition there was no news of a Squadron of Ships of War) but in at leaſt 2000 Men, reckoning Soldiers and Inhabitants. That the Mouth of the Harbour, (which was not above a Ship's length in breadth) was guarded by three Cables a-croſs, and a ſtrong Fort of more than 30 large Cannon, and Palliſado'd to the Land; and the Hills alſo juſt over the Fort fortified with two other ſtone Forts, well ſecured with Palliſadoes. Upon

The Squadron arrives at Newfoundland.

Upon this he called a Council of War of the Sea and Land Officers, and earneſtly preſs'd, that the Land Forces might make the Attempt on Shore, while the Fleet did the ſame by Sea, and that ſome Soldiers might be taken from the Tranſport-Ships to aſſiſt in the Men of War, which had not more Men than were ſufficient to ply one Tier of their Guns. This was rejected by the Land Officers; and there was 11 to 6 of thoſe of the Sea, againſt going in with the Ships to batter the Great Fort: However, he ſent ſome of the Frigats, and part of the Soldiers under Command of Major *Rabiſmer*, to deſtroy the *French* at *St. Petens*, a Place of Note, which they effectually did. *A Council of War called, and reſolved not to attempt* Placentia.

The 28th of *Auguſt*, 1693, the Squadron arrived in the Bay of *Bulls* in *Newfoundland*, and took in Water and Wood; and being kept there by bad Weather till the 22d of *September*, the Commadore then ſailed for *England*, and on the 18th of *October* he received, at *Portſmouth*, a Commiſſion, appointing him Rear-Admiral of the Red. *Sir* Fr. Wheler *arrives in* England.

Thus ended this Expedition, wherein though we gained no manner of Reputation, yet was it attended with the unfortunate Loſs of many very good Officers and Men: And it had like to have hap-

happen'd much worſe, through the want of Hands ſufficient to bring the Ships home; which were likewiſe in a very bad Condition, both as to their Hull, and other Particulars.

The Fleet put under Command of Mr. Killigrew, Sir R. Delavall, and Sir Cloudeſly Shovell.

The 18th of *March*, 1692, Mr. *Killigrew*, Sir *Ralph Delavall*, and Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, (who were jointly appointed Admirals of the Fleet) received Inſtructions from the Lords of the Admiralty to proceed to Sea, and (without expecting particular Orders, by which Opportunities of Service might be loſt) to uſe their utmoſt endeavours to annoy the Enemy, and protect the Trade. The Number of Ships (beſides *Dutch*, which was commonly Five to our Eight) appointed for the Body of the Fleet, was 6 Firſt Rates, 10 Seconds, 28 Thirds, 6 Fourts, 4 Fifths, and 5 Sixth Rates; together with 17 Fireſhips, one Bomb-Veſſel, and 4 Hoſpitals.

There was at this time a great want of Men, and for the more ſpeedy raiſing them, general Orders were iſſued (but ſoon after contradicted) for taking half the Seamen from all the Privateers; but that the Fleet might be put into as early a Condition for Service as 'twas poſſible, 5 Regiments of Foot were ordered to be embarked at *Portſmouth*;

Five Regiments of Foot put on Board.

and

that the Proviſions might laſt the longer, the Ships Companies were put to ſix to four Men's Allowance of all Species, except Beer; (which they was duly paid for) for there was not yet ſuch a Quantity provided, as would enable them to keep at Sea ſo long as the Service might require.

The Fleet arrived at *St. Hellens* the 7th of *May*, where the Admirals formed their Line of Battel; and ſince it is not altogether neceſſary to inſert the ſame in the exact manner, with every Ship's Name, and that of her Commander, as they were appointed to follow each other, I ſhall explain the Strength of each Diviſion thus, *viz.* *The Admirals arrive at St. Hellens, and form their Line of Battel.*

Engliſh.	*Rates.*						
	1st	2d	3d	4th	5th	6th	*Engliſh.*
In the Diviſion of the Vice-Admiral of the Blue.	0	3	5	1	0	0	3
Admiral of the Blue.	2	1	5	1	0	1	3
Rear Admiral of the Blue.	0	2	6	1	0	0	2
Rear-Admiral of the Red.	1	2	5	1	0	0	2
Admiral of the Red.	3	1	5	1	2	2	3
Dutch.							
Vice-Admiral.	1	2	4	2	0	0	2
Admiral.	2	1	6	1	0	2	3
Another Vice-Admiral.	3	0	4	3	0	1	1
	12	12	40	11	2	6	19

According to this Line of Battel, the Fleet, *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, would, when join'd, have conſiſted of 102 Sail, beſides Brigantines, Bomb-Veſſels, and Hoſpital Ships, whereof 75 were Ships of the Line; and although thoſe of the *Dutch*, which I reckon according to Rates, (a Method not uſed by that Country)

Country) are more or leſs inferior to thoſe of *England*; yet I have taken great care to marſhal them together, as near as thoſe Differences would admit of.

A Conſultation about attempting the Ships at Breſt.

The Day after the Fleet arrived at *Spithead*, the Flag-Officers took into Conſideration, according to Her Majeſty's Commands, what number of Ships might be proper for them to carry to *Breſt*, and what might be attempted when there, and did reſolve, That if the Fleet could be made up to 70, they would proceed to the ſaid Port, and endeavour to attempt the *French* Ships there; and the Reaſon why they inſiſted on ſuch a Number, was the Uncertainty whether the Ships from *Thoulon* had joined them.

Another Conſultation about ſending forward the Turky Convoy.

Another Council of War was called the 15th of *May*, 1693, to conſider how the *Streights* Fleet, with the Trade to *Turky*, might moſt ſafely proceed under the Conduct of Sir *George Rooke*. Having debated the Matter, they were of Opinion, That if the *Thoulon* Squadron was come out of the *Streights*, and join'd thoſe of *Breſt*, 10 Men of War, a ſmall Frigat, and a Fireſhip, would be ſufficient for the aforeſaid Convoy, and that the ſeparate Convoy for *Spain* ought to proceed with them, and the

Body of the Fleet accompany them both out of the Chanel: But that if the *French* were not joined, it was proper the whole Squadron ſhould forthwith proceed with their Convoys. On the other hand, if the *French* Fleet was joined, and at Sea, it was judged adviſeable for the main Fleet to proceed with the *Mediterranean* Squadron ſo far as a Council of War ſhould think proper, when in the *Soundings*; but if no certain Advice could be got of the *Thoulon* Squadron's being come out of the *Streights*, or where they were, before the Fleet ſailed from *St. Hellens*, it was determined that the *Mediterranean* Squadron (that is to ſay, 10 Men of War, a Frigat and a Fireſhip) ſhould remain at *St. Hellens* till Intelligence could be gained.

The Admirals ordered by the Lords of the Admiralty to ſail with the Fleet and the Turky Convoy.

The 19th of *May*, 1693, the Lords of the Admiralty (in obedience to Her Majeſty's Commands) ſent Orders to the Admirals to ſail in company of the Squadron bound to the *Mediterranean*, and of the *Virginia* and *Bilboa* Convoys, and that after they had proceeded with them as far as it ſhould be judg'd requiſite, they ſhould order the *Streights* Squadron to ſteer ſuch Courſe to *Cadiz*, as ſhould be thought moſt ſafe by a Council of War, with reſpect as well

to

to the *Breſt* Fleet, if gone to Sea, as to the *Thoulon* Squadron; and then with the Body of the Fleet to put in Execution the Inſtructions they had received.

Determination where to part with the Turky Convoy.

A Council of War being hereupon called, it was determined, That the Main Fleet, and *Mediterranean* Squadron, ſhould proceed together 30 Leagues W. S. W. off of *Uſhant*, and that when the Admirals ſpread a Blue Flag at the Main-top-maſt-head, and fired 3 Guns, Sir *George Rooke*, as well as the other Convoys, ſhould proceed, according to the Orders they had received from the Lords of the Admiralty.

Agreed to accompany the ſaid Convoy 20 Leagues further.

The Fleet being on the 4th of *June* 30 Leagues W. S. W. off *Uſhant*, a Council of War was called of the Flag Officers, both *Dutch* and *Engliſh*, and 'twas then determined, That ſince they had no Intelligence of the Enemy, the Fleet ſhould accompany the *Mediterranean* Squadron 20 Leagues further, and then return to the former Station, and take up the Cruizers, and from thence proceed to the Rendezvous 10 Leagues N. W. off *Uſhant*: So that leaving the *Streights* Squadron on the 6th in the Evening, they arrived at the ſaid Rendezvous two Days after.

During this time they met with no Intelligence of the Enemy's Fleet; but the Lords of the Admiralty received Advice on the 13th, from Sir *Lambert Blackwell*, (who was then Conſul at *Leghorne*) which he had from the Maſter of a *Malteeſe* Bark, that the *Thoulon* Squadron, with 35 Galleys, were ready to proceed from *Marſeilles*; and ſome Days before this the Country was allarm'd with a Number of Ships ſeen off of *Scilly*, which was thought to be the *French* Fleet, but proved to be only *Danes* and *Swedes*, under Convoy of a Man of War of about 44 Guns.

Advice from Sir Lambert Black-well *of the* Thoulon *Squadron.*

Some Ships being ſent to gain Intelligence on the *French* Coaſt, one of them, the *Warſpight*, return'd to the Fleet the 17th of *June*, with an Account, That ſhe had ſtood ſo near in with *St. Matthew's* Point, as to bring *Breſt* Bay open, and that neither Ship or other Veſſel could be diſcover'd there, except two or three ſmall Fiſhing Boats; ſo that the Admirals determined to ſail off of *Scilly* to look for the Enemy, (having not yet been inform'd that the Ships which gave the Allarm were only *Danes* and *Swedes*) and from thence to repair to *Torbay* with the 69 Ships of the Line of Battel they had with them, of which 45 were *Engliſh*, and 24 *Dutch*.

None of the Enemy's Ships could be ſeen at Breſt.

The Fleet proceeds off of Scilly.

There

There they arrived the 21ſt of *June*, and were in great want of ſeveral Species of Proviſions, but more eſpecially Beer, Butter and Cheeſe. A Council of War was called the 23d, upon Commands from Her Majeſty, concerning Sir *George Rooke*, it being apprehended that he might be in danger from the *French* Fleet, as indeed it happened. *It arrives in* Torbay.

It was by this Council determined to proceed to *Lisbon*, and join the *Mediterranean* Squadron; but it was found upon ſtrict Enquiry, they had not Proviſions ſo to do. Nevertheleſs, ſince it was judged that Squadron did greatly require the aſſiſtance of the Fleet, it was reſolved to proceed in ſearch of the Enemy, if in 14 Days time they could be compleated with Victuals for 10 Weeks at whole Allowance. *Reſolution of a Council of War, upon Apprehenſions of the* Turky *Convoy's being in Danger.*

Much about this time Advice came from the Conſul of *O-Porto*, dated the 9th of *June*, That on the 1ſt of that Month, there arrived News at *Lisbon*, by Expreſs from *Algarve*, That Monſieur *Tourville* with the *French* Fleet, conſiſting of 75 Men of War, and ſeveral other Ships and Veſſels, in all to the Number of 114, were come into the Bay of *Lagos*, between Cape *St. Vincent* and *Faro*. 'Twas ſaid that at firſt they ſhew'd *Engliſh* Colours, and ſome of *Advice received of the* French *Fleet's being in* Lagos *Bay.*

them *Dutch*, and that by *Engliſh* Men ſent on Shore, they pretended to be of thoſe Nations; but that the next Day the Governor ſending on board of the Admiral, he inſinuated as if he had been forced in there by bad Weather, and that he intended to ſail the next Morning; but without doubt his real deſign was to intercept our Men of War and their Convoys.

Beſides this Intelligence, an Expreſs was ſent to the Biſhop of *Algarve*, that Count *d'Eſtree* was join'd Monſieur *Tourville*, and that the whole Body of the Fleet ſeem'd to ſtand off to Sea, in order to double Cape *St. Vincent*, and then proceed Northward: And there was Intelligence at *Cadiz*, that the *French* Fleet had been diſcover'd in *Lagos* Bay the 6th of *June*, in all about 120 Sail, of which 70 great Ships, beſides 16 Fireſhips, and 6 Bomb-Veſſels, and that 20 Sail of them were Cruizing Weſtward.

The Admirals ordered to diſtribute Proviſions equally to the Ships.

Theſe Advices reaching the *Engliſh* Court, the Lords of the Admiralty did the 23d of *June* ſend Orders to the Admirals, to diſtribute the expected Proviſions equally, ſo ſoon as it ſhould arrive, and to cauſe each Captain to take on board what Water he could, ſince 'twas probable the Service might require

require the Fleet's continuing at Sea a conſiderable time; and expreſs Directions were given to the Commiſſioners for Victualling, to provide as faſt as poſſibly they could, and haſten to the Fleet, what Proviſions was then Shipt off; for at that time what was on board would ſuffice no longer than is hereafter mentioned, according to the Computation made thereof by the Agent to the Commiſſioners of the Victualling;

The Bread would end by *Aug.* 16.
Beer ——— *July* 21.
Beef ——— *Sept.* 13.
Pork ——— *Aug.* 16.
Peaſe ——— *Sept.* 13.
Oatmeal ——— *Aug.* 16.
Butter ——— *Sept.* 13.
Cheeſe ——— *Sept.* 13.

Their Reaſons for not going with the Fleet to the Aſſiſtance of Sir Geo. Rooke.

The 1ſt of *July*, 1693, the Flag-Officers ſubmitted it to Her Majeſty, whether it might be adviſeable for the Fleet to proceed to *Liſbon*, for that if the *French* were join'd and ſail'd Northward, the Coaſt of *England* would be expoſed to Inſults. That which had before induced them to propoſe going thither, was for the Security of Sir *George Rooke*, and the Merchant Ships, and proceeding with him further, or accompany

paying him home, as it ſhould be thought moſt proper: But ſince Orders were ſent to him to return, they thought it would be very uncertain where to meet him; and they were of Opinion, That Her Majeſty's Orders to him were ſo full, that there was no occaſion for their giving any others in addition thereunto, ſince thereby he was directed, That if he was obliged to go into the River of *Lisbon*, and received certain Intelligence, during his ſtay there, that the *Thoulon* Squadron had join'd the reſt of their Fleet, and were together gone Northward from off the Coaſt of *Portugal*, he ſhould leave a proper Number of Ships, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, to proceed up the *Streights* with the *Turky* Fleet, and himſelf return with the reſt and join the Body of our Fleet in theſe Seas, and not meeting them in his paſſage, to make the Port of *Plimouth*, and there expect further Order. But theſe Orders being not ſent away before the 3d of *June*, they could not poſſibly arrive time enough; for he being the 17th of that Month about 60 Leagues ſhort of Cape *St. Vincent*, he ordered the *Lark*, a nimble Sixth Rate, to ſtretch a-head of his Scouts in *Lagos* Bay, to get what Intelligence could be had there of the Enemy;

Enemy; but this Ship hawling the Shore on board, in the Night, more than the reſt of the Fleet did, lay becalmed.

The next Day the Scouts diſcover'd two of the Enemy's Ships, and chaſing them till ſomewhat after Noon, the *Chatham* came up with one of them, a Ship of 70 Guns, and engaged her a ſmall time; but ſeeing 8 or 10 Sail under the Cape, left her, and repaired to the Admiral with an Account thereof. Hereupon, a Council of War being called of the other two Flag-Officers, namely, Rear-Admiral *Hopſon* and Vice-Admiral *Vandergoes*, the Admiral propoſed keeping the Wind, or laying by all Night, that ſo a Diſcovery of the Enemy's Strength might be made the next Morning: But in this he was over-rul'd; and it was urg'd, that the Wind being freſh Northerly, it gave a fair Opportunity of puſhing for *Cadiz*. The Admiral being apprehenſive that ſuch an Attempt might prove of ill Conſequence, by drawing the Fleet into a greater Force of the Enemy than he could be able to diſengage himſelf from, thought it requiſite, before the Reſult of the Council of War was Signed, to call to him five or ſix of the Captains that happened to be on board; whoſe Opinion

The French Fleet firſt diſcover'd in Lagos *Bay by Sir* Geo. Rooke.

Opinion being asked, they did all concur in what had been before reſolved: Wherefore he ran along Shore all Night with a preſt Sail, and forced ſeveral of the Enemy's Ships to cut from their Anchors in *Lagos* Bay.

The next Morning by break of Day, being off of *Villa-Nova*, it fell calm, and about 10 Sail of the Enemy's Ships of War, and ſome other ſmall Ships with them, were ſeen in the *Offing*. Thoſe Ships ſtood away with their Boats a-head, ſetting fire to ſome, and deſtroying and deſerting other of their ſmall Veſſels; but ſome of them fell into our hands; and in one there was a Train laid which blew up 20 of our Men. One of their Fireſhips was alſo taken, by falling into the Fleet in the Night, and the Men on board her inform'd the Admiral, That the Squadron conſiſted but of 15 Ships of the Line of Battel, but that there was three Flags, Monſieur *Tourville*, Monſieur *Villet*, and Monſieur *Lemon*; and that they had with them 40 odd ſail of Storeſhips and Merchant Men bound to *Thoulon*, or to meet Monſieur *d'Eſtree*. They ſaid alſo the Squadron had been becalmed off of the Cape, and that having watered in the Bay, were bound directly into the *Streights*, without any

Some of the French Ships haſtily retire to draw our Squadron into their Body.

Intention

Intention of ſeeing our Fleet. This, with the haſty Retreat of their Men of War in the Morning, and the deſerting and burning their ſmall Veſſels, gain'd a perfect Belief in the Admiral, and the reſt of the Flag-Officers and Captains; but afterwards it was judged (and with Reaſon too) that the precipitated Retreat of the little part of the Fleet (unleſs they were at firſt ſurprized, and judged our whole Strength together, from the Number of Merchant-Ships) was purpoſely done to amuſe us, and thereby to draw our Squadron inſenſibly into the Body thereof.

The Enemy's whole Strength diſcovered, and 16 bear up towards our Squadron.

About Noon the Sea Breeze ſprang up at W. N. W, and North-weſt, and then the Admiral bore away along Shore upon the Enemy, diſcovering their Strength the more the nearer he came to them, and at laſt counted about 80 Sail; but the number they ply'd up to him with was not above 16, with three Flags, the Admiral, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and Rear-Admiral of the White. The Vice-Admiral of the White ſtood off to Sea, that ſo he might weather our Squadron, and fall in with the Merchant Ships, whilſt the Body of their Fleet lay promiſcuouſly to Leeward of one another, as far as they could be ſeen, eſpecially their biggeſt Ships.

At

The Dutch Vice-Admiral againſt Fighting them.

At Three in the Afternoon the Admiral being within four Miles of the Enemy, Vice-Admiral *Vandergoes* brought to, and ſent him word, That he was then ſenſible of the Deceipt, for that their whole Fleet might be diſcovered. He was of Opinion to avoid Fighting, if poſſible, being fearful that not only many of the Merchant Ships would be loſt, but that an Engagement there would certainly occaſion the Ruine of the whole. The Admiral himſelf judg'd he was advanced too near to think of a Retreat, and therefore, before the receipt of this Meſſage, had reſolved to puſh for it; but afterwards reflecting on the Inconveniencies he might expoſe himſelf to, by Engaging, and thereby hazarding the loſs of the Squadron, contrary to the Opinion and Advice of the *Dutch* Flag-Officer, he brought to, and ſtood off with an eaſie Sail, that ſo the *Dutch*, and the heavy Sailers, might have time to work up to Windward, and he ſent the *Sheerneſs* with Orders to the ſmall Ships that were near the Land, and could not (as he judged) keep up with the Fleet, to endeavour to get along Shore in the Night, and ſave themſelves in *Farab*, *St. Lucar*, or *Cadiz*.

Sir Geo. Rooke thereupon ſtands off.

The

The Admiral and Vice-Admiral of the Blue, with 8 or 10 Sail of the Enemy's Ships, fetched very faſt upon our Squadron, which obliged us to make Sail; but nevertheleſs they came up with the Leewardmoſt about 6 a Clock, which were two or three *Dutch* Men of War, and ſome of their Merchant Ships, who (ſoon after they were engaged) tack'd in for the Shoar, and the Enemy after them, and thereby gave a fair opportunity to our Ships that were to Windward, and A-head, to make Sail off. The Admiral ſtood off all Night with a preſt Sail, having a freſh Gale at N. N. W, and on *Sunday* Morning 54 of the Merchant Ships, and ſeveral Men of War, were about him, but of the latter no more than two of thoſe belonging to the *Dutch*, and one *Hamburgher*, and five Sail of the Enemy's Ships, were to Leeward, and two to Windward, which laſt tack'd from him, but yet dogg'd him all Day.

The opportunity our Ships had to eſcape, by the Enemy's following ſome Dutch Ships into the Shoar.

The next day the Admiral called the Officers of the Men of War and Merchant Ships on board, to inform himſelf what Account they could give of the reſt of the Fleet, and to Adviſe what was beſt to be done for the Security of the Remainder. Some of them ſaid, they ſaw 40 or 50 Ships bear away

way to the Southward, about 10 a Clock on *Saturday* night, and that among them were the *Monk*, and a *Dutch* Man of War of 50 Guns; and there was great hopes that the *Shandoiſe*, *Aſia*, and ſeveral other large Ships bound to *Turky*, were ſafe, becauſe the Admiral's own Ship was the Leewardmoſt of the Fleet on *Sunday* Morning, and that now there could be diſcern'd none to Leeward but the five *French* Ships, which ſtood away towards *Cadiz* when they left him. Not more than one of the Maſters of the Merchant Ships was for looking towards the *Streights* Mouth; the reſt were poſitively againſt it: Some enclin'd for *Lisbon*, others for the *Groyne*, but moſt for *Ireland*; ſo that he determined to ſteer away either for *Cork* or *Kinſale*, the two principal Ports in that Kingdom.

With great Cunning the Enemy drew our Fleet into this Misfortune; but had they purſued the Advantage with as much Conduct and Reſolution, not a Ship had eſcaped; for the Admiral, and Vice-Admiral of the Blue, were within Shot of our Admiral, when they tack'd and ſtood in to the Shoar after the *Dutch*; and that tacking (as I have ſaid before) ſaved the reſt of the Fleet.

Ha-

Having given this Account, it may not be altogether improper to take up a little of your Time, and my own, in relating how the Fleet, both Ships of War, and those of the Merchants, was by this unlucky Accident separated, *Viz.* *In what manner the Squadron and Merchant Ships were separated.*

English *Ships of War.*

Royal Oak.
Breda.
Monmouth.
Lion.
Woolwich.
Newcastle.
Chatham.
Tyger Prize.
Lumley Castle.
Princess Anne.
Loyal Merchant.
Lark.
Salamander.
Dispatch Brigantine
Speedwell } Fireships.
Vulture }
Muscovia Merchant, Storeship.
Susana, Bomb Storeship.

All these were with the Fleet when the *French* left us.

Monk — Bore up with the *Shandois*, *Asia*, &c.

Sheerneſs. —— } Tack'd and ſtood
Smirna Factor. —— } in for the Shoar
with the Merchant Ships.

Dutch *Ships of War.*

Captain General. —— } Theſe were alſo in
Gelderland. —— } the Fleet.

Ooſterſtellingwerfe. — } Gone Convoy to
D'Beſcermeer. —— } *St. Ubes* and *Port O Port*, and ſo forward for *Cadiz*.

Nimwegen. —— { Bore up with the *Shandois*, *Aſia*, &c.

Zeelandt. —— } Tack'd and ſtood in
De Hadt Medezel. } for the Shoar, ſoon
Schiedam. —— } after the Enemy had fetch'd and engag'd them.

Merchant Ships in the Fleet.

George. ——
Concord. } Bound to *Smirna*.
Crown. ——

Aleppo Factor. —— } Bound to *Scanderoon*.
Reward. —— }

Phœnix. —— Bound to *Meſſina*.

Merchants Goodwill. Bound to *Aleppo*.

Lam-

Lambeth.
Poplar Frigat.
Terra Nova Merch^t.
} Bound to *Alicant.*

Hunter.
Andaluſia.
Relief.
Sarah.
George.
} Bound to *Cadiz.*

Fidelity. Bound to *St. Lucar.*

Engliſh *Merchant Ships wanting.*

Shandois.
Aſia.
Italian Merchant.
Mary.
} Bound to *Smirna.*

Joſeph. Bound to *Leghorne, Smirna,* and *Scanderoon.*

Loyalty. Bound to *Scanderoon.*

Jacob.
Proſperous Africa.
Ruby.
Golden Frigat.
} Bound to *Venice.*

Great Tuniſeen. Bound to *Tunis.*

Three Brothers.
Suſanna.
} Bound to *Alicant.*

Oxenden. Bound to *Meſſina.*

Merchants Good-Will.
} Bound to *Barcelona.*

Friendſhip. Bound to *Malaga.*

Succeſs. ——— }
Malaga Factor. }
Benjamin. }
Frog Doggar. } Bound to *Cadiz.*
Sarah. }
John and Samuel.— }
John and Thomas.— Bound to *St. Lucar.*

All the *Dutch Turky* Ships were miſſing.

All the *Hamburgher* Convoys were miſſing, except one Man of War and one Merchant Man; the other Man of War went to *St. Ubes*, and ſo forward for *Cadiz.*

Sir Geo. Rooke *proceeds to* Madera *to Water.*

After the Admiral had diſpatched the *Lark*, with an Account of this Diſaſter, to *England*, he bore away with the Fleet to the Iſland of *Madera's* for Water, where he had hopes of meeting ſome of the ſcattered Ships, but found only the *Monk*, commanded by Captain *Fairborne*: Wherefore putting the Ships into the beſt Condition he could, he ſailed from the *Madera's* the 27th of *June*, 1693, and arrived at *Cork* in *Ireland* the 3d of *Auguſt*, where he received Orders from the joint Admirals, to ſend the *Royal Oak*, *Breda*, *Monmouth*, *Lion*, *Woolwich*, and *Lumley Caſtle*, to the main Fleet: But in regard

He arrives at Cork *in* Ireland.

all

all the Ships with him were in great Want of ſeveral Species of Proviſions, and that no Service could be expected from thoſe that were to remain at *Kinſale*, he ſent them thither under Command of Captain *Fairborne*, and came himſelf with the before-mentioned Detachment to the Fleet.

After our Squadron had thus fortunately eſcaped, the Enemy proceeded up the *Streights*, and came to an Anchor before the Town of *Malaga* the 20th of *July* in the Morning, to the Governor of which Place Monſieur *Tourville* ſent word, That he had no Deſign againſt the Place, or Inhabitants, but that his Buſineſs was to burn all the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships in the Port; adding, That if the City defended them, (which indeed it was in no good Condition of doing) he was reſolved to Bombard it. The Governor returned Anſwer, 'That he would endeavour to 'Protect the Ships according to the 'King his Maſter's Orders; ſo that the next day the *French* placed their Broadſides towards the Ships in the Mold, being four *Dutch* and one *Engliſh*, and attempted to burn the *Union* Frigat; but they were twice repulſed. Nevertheleſs they continued to fire very hotly, and all having been done that was poſ-

The French Fleet proceeds up the Streights.

The French attack our Merchant Ships at Malaga whoſe Maſters ſunk them.

ſible to defend the Ships, their Maſters did at laſt ſink them.

The Diſpute between the City and the *French* laſted about ſix Hours; but they did no great damage one to the other; nor was there above 8 or 10 Men killed and wounded on Shore.

They then repair to Cadiz *Bay, and receive Refreſhments from the Governor.*

After this the Enemy returned, and Anchored in the Bay of *Cadiz*, where they were ſo far from doing Miſchief, that at the Deſire of the *French* Admiral (for there was no need of Compulſion) the Governor of the Place gave him a handſome Preſent of Refreſhments. The ſame Afternoon they ſent away all their Prizes to *Thoulon*, (being about 18) under the Convoy of two Men of War, and detached about 14 Ships, and two Bomb-Veſſels, toward *Gibraltar*, in which Bay they arrived the 8th in the Morning, within Gun-ſhot of the Fortifications, which, together with the Mold and Ships, fired on them all Day; but they made no return.

They detach a Squadron to Gibraltar.

The 11th in the Morning, Captain *Littleton* of the *Swiftſure Fachr*, ſent from her, and ſeveral of the Merchant Ships, about 90 Seamen, to enable the Maſters of the four *Turky* Ships to defend them, on whom the *French* fired, and ſent in one of their Frigats to attack them; but the warm Reception ſhe received, ſoon obliged

obliged them to reſcue her with their Boats; but when the *French* began to fling Bombs into the Mold, thoſe Maſters (as the others did at *Malaga*) bor'd holes in their Ships, and ſunk them, and then the *French* retired to *Lagos* Bay.

Our Merchant Ships ſunk by their Maſters, and then the Enemy repair to Lagos Bay.

'Tis needleſs to throw away more time in attending the Motion of the *French* Fleet, or in relating the mighty Feats they did, in beſtowing ſome Bombs on other Ports in the *Streights*, in their paſſage to *Thoulon*, and therefore I ſhall again return to the Body of our Fleet at Home, which could by no means have arrived time enough to the Aſſiſtance of Sir *George Rooke*, had they had ſufficient Proviſions, and all other things neceſſary. But ſince there was an abſolute Neceſſity for their going to Sea, a Council of the Flag-Officers was called the 9th of *July*; and 'twas reſolv'd to proceed 40 Leagues S. W. from *Uſhant*, and then to conſider whether 'twould be beſt to remain there, or to remove to ſome other Station, for the better intercepting the Enemy, and keeping the Fleet together. To put this in execution, they attempted to ſail the 11th, but were forced back by extream bad weather, which did conſiderable damage to the Fleet, and many of the Ships loſt their Topmaſts and Anchors.

A Council of War called to conſider how to diſpoſe of our Fleet.

The Misfortune of the *Turky* Squadron had not long reach'd the Court, e're there were ſeveral Queſtions ſent to the Admirals by the Lords of the Admiralty, with reſpect to the Time and Place of their parting from the ſaid Squadron, and their not gaining Intelligence from *Breſt*, *&c.* but they adhering to the ſeveral Councils of War that were called upon this Subject, the whole Matter ended with ſome Examinations before the Houſe of Commons.

The *Victory*, *Dutcheſs*, *Suffolk*, *Oſſory*, and *Elizabeth*, which wanted the greateſt Repairs, were, on the 22d of *Auguſt*, ordered from the Fleet to *Chatham*; but it was directed, that if any other damaged Ships could be put into a Condition for the Sea, at *Torbay*, they ſhould be immediately gone in hand with; and at this time all the *Dutch* Ships were in a tollerable good Condition, except that wherein Vice-Admiral *Callemberg* bore his Flag, and her Mainmaſt and Bowſprit were unſerviceable.

The Admirals come with the Fleet to St. Hellens, *and the great Ships ſent to* Chatham.

But the Winter Seaſon being ſomewhat advanced, the Admirals received Orders the 25th to come with the Fleet to *St. Hellens*; and being arrived there, the four Regiments were put on Shore at *Portſmouth*, and the three Deckt Ships ordered to *Blackſtakes*, except four of them,

them, the *St. Andrew*, *St. Michael*, *Neptune* and *Vanguard*, which were appointed to be fitted at *Portſmouth*.

The 19th of *September*, 1693, 15 *Dutch* Ships of the Line of Battel, and two Frigats of 36 Guns, were ordered by His Majeſty to *Holland*; ſo that the Body being now ſeparated, it was determined that one Second, 17 Thirds, 7 Fourths, one Fifth, 7 Fireſhips, and two Hoſpital Ships, ſhould be the Winter Guard.

I come now to give an Account of the Proceedings of Sir *Francis Wheler*, who was appointed Admiral and Commander in Chief of the Squadron deſigned for the *Mediterranean*, and of what paſs'd in thoſe Parts, after his unfortunate Loſs, under the Conduct of Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, till ſuch time as he was join'd at *Cadiz* by the Earl of *Orford*, with the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Fleet.

Sir Fr. Wheler *appointed to Command a Squadron to the* Mediterranean.

He was ordered by the Lords of the Admiralty, the 20th of *November*, 1693, to get in readineſs, and proceed to *Cadiz*, with 16 Third Rates, 7 Fourths, one Fifth, one Sixth, ſix Fireſhips, two Bomb-Veſſels, an Hoſpital Ship, and a Storeſhip, in company with ſeveral *Dutch* Ships of War appointed to join him; and to take under his Convoy all Merchant Ships bound to *Turky*, or any Port in *Spain* or *Italy*.

Sir Fr. Wheler's *Inſtructions.*

If

If he arrived at *Cadiz* before the *Spaniſh* Plate Fleet, he was to Cruize in ſuch Station as a Council of War ſhould adviſe, not exceeding 30 Days, to ſecure them in their Paſſage: And when the ſaid Fleet arrived, or if they did not within the aforeſaid time, he was to proceed into the *Mediterranean* with 7 Third Rates, as many Fourths, one Fifth, one Sixth, four Fireſhips, two Bomb-Veſſels, and the Hoſpital-Ship and Storeſhip, together with the *Dutch*. The reſt of the Squadron he was to leave at *Cadiz*, with Orders to the Commander in chief to remain 21 Days there, and then to return to *England*, with all the Trade that ſhould be ready to accompany him.

In caſe the *Spaniſh* Men of War came to *Cadiz* before he ſailed thence, he was to concert with their Admiral where to join him, at his return from Convoying the *Turky* Ships.

In the next place he was particularly Inſtructed what Convoys to ſend to *Turky*, and other Ports up the *Streights*, and himſelf, with the Squadron, was to accompany them as high as the Chanel of *Malta*; but he was caution'd (as had been uſual) not to block up any of the Grand Signior's Ports, and if he took any Ships, wherein were

the

the Perſons or Effects of that Prince, or his Subjects, he was ordered to ſet both the one and the other on Shore at the firſt convenient Port.

When he had thus ſent forward the ſeveral Convoys, he was, with the reſt of the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Men of War, to return and join the few *Spaniſh* Ships (and thoſe rotten ones too) which that Nation call their *Armada*, and, with their Invincible Aſſiſtance, to annoy the Enemy, and protect the Trade; and when he ſhould judge the *Turky* Convoys were on their return, he was to repair to the appointed Rendezvous for joining them, and Convoy them to *England*, and to bring with him the ſeveral Trades from the Ports in the *Streights*, and *Cadiz*.

He was alſo further directed, when in the *Mediterranean*, to ſend two or three Ships before *Algier*, *Tunis*, and *Tripoly*, to confirm the Peace with thoſe Governments, and to deliver His Majeſty's Preſents to them.

From the 20th of *November*, 1693, to the 27th of the following Month, he lay with the Squadron at *St. Helens*, before which time all things neceſſary for his Voyage could not be, or at leaſt were not, got in a readineſs, and then he ſailed, leaving behind him two or three

An Account of the Spaniſh Armada.

In *Cadiz* Bay he found the *Spaniſh* Armada, being about 16 Sail, but all unrigg'd. Their Admiral (to the beſt of his knowledge) told him that they would be ready about the latter end of *March*, tho', according to the Diſpatch they uſually make in thoſe Matters, they might reaſonably have had ſome Months more allowed them. Of the *Dutch*, Seven accompanied him from *England*, Two more he met at *Cadiz*, and four others were ſuddenly expected as Convoy to their Trade, but inſtead of them Four others were to return home; ſo that conſidering the great Wealth of the Merchants, the Convoys he was to detach, the ſmallneſs of the Squadron, and the uncertainty of timely Aſſiſtance from the *Spaniards*, he was not a little doubtful of the Succeſs of his Expedition.

The Fleta arrived ſafe in Cadiz Bay.

He found the Fleta ſafely arrived in *Cadiz* Bay, ſo that his Care for them was at an end; and the 25th of *January* Rear-Admiral *Nevill* came into the Bay, with the Ships ordered to cruize off of Cape *St. Vincent*, having there luckily joined the Convoys, in ſight of the *French* Squadron.

After he had appointed a Convoy for the homeward bound Trade, which was two Third Rates, two Fourths, and a Fire-

Fifeſhip, with Four *Dutch* Men of War, Two whereof were Ships of 70 Guns, and given Vice-Admiral *Hopſon* the neceſſary Inſtructions for that Service, he put to Sea, having not had a Weſterly Wind after he was ready to ſail before the 10th of *February*, 1693; but when he had got the Entrance of the *Streights* open, he was forced to bear up for the Bay of *Bulls*, where he Anchored the next day. *Vice-Admiral* Hopſon *ordered home with the Trade, and Sir* Fetiplace Wheler *ſails, but is forced back.*

The 17th in the Afternoon he ſailed again, and being got off of the Bay of *Gibraltar*, he lay by with an eaſy Gale at Weſt: But the next Morning, about Two a Clock, he made ſail, with little Wind Northerly. At 7 the Wind came up at S. E, and to the E. N. E, with Thunder, Lightning, and Rain, ſo that the Fleet laid their Heads Southward, but at One in the Afternoon they wore, and lay Northward under a main Courſe, it blowing a hard Gale at E. S. E, and the Hill of *Gibraltar* was W. S. W, about 6 Leagues off. At 4 a Clock the Land Weſtward of *Fungerol* was ſeen N. E. by E, and between 4 and 5 the Squadron went about, and Rear-Admiral *Nevil* getting his Tacks on board, ſtood Southward, and laid up S. E. under his Courſes. At 6 the Admiral himſelf hawled up his Foreſail, and *He ſails again.* *A violent Storm.*

and try'd with his Mainſail, with his Head Southward; but at 12 at night Vice-Admiral *Callemberg* made the Signal for coming to ſail, and Rear-Admiral *Nevil* did the like, and got his Fore-tack aboard. About one it blew a freſh of Wind, and his Foreſail being loſt, he was forced to lie under a Mainſail and Mizen all night. The next day, about 5 in the morning, the Rear-Admiral's Mainſail gave way, and an hour after ſeeing the Southward part of the Hill at *Gibraltar* W. S. W. of him, about 3 Leagues off, and 14 Sail of the Fleet to Windward, ſome under their Mainſails only, others a Mizen, and ſome without Maſts, he immediately brought a new Foreſail to the Yard, and hoiſted his Enſign, to give the other Ships of the Fleet that were in ſight of him notice of the Land; and himſelf ſeeing the Gutt, ſtood away for it, as did Vice-Admiral *Callemberg* (who firſt ſaw his Signal) and the other Ships: But they having the Bay of *Gibraltar* open, and, in all probability, miſtaking it for the *Streights* Mouth, put in there, not being able to ſee the Land Weſtward, by reaſon it was thick Weather with much Rain, which occaſion'd their running into that unhappy Misfortune; for it being a Lee Shoar, foul Ground, and

The Ships receive Damage in their Sails, &c.

Several Ships miſtake the Bay of Gibraltar *for the* Streights *Mouth, and ran in Shoar.*

and their Sails flying into the Air like Kites; they were forced to let go their Anchors, of which many were loſt, moſt of their Cables ſpoil'd, and ſome of the Ships were forced on Shoar.

Rear-Admiral Nevill *and others bear away thro' the Gut.*

The Rear-Admiral knowing the Danger, but not being able timely, or effectually, to forewarn them of it, ſtood away directly through the *Streights*, and at Night got into *St. Jeremy*'s Bay on the Coaſt of *Barbary*, where he ply'd to and fro (it being then a Weather Shoar, and ſmooth Water) till the 23d, at which time a ſmall Gale coming up Weſterly, he made the beſt of his way for *Gibraltar*; and had there the melancholy News of the Loſs of the Admiral; Sir *Francis Wheler*, whoſe Ship, the *Suſſex*, foundred in the Storm, and of 550 Men only two *Turks* were ſaved, the Admiral's Body being taken up among the Rocks on the Shoar very much mangled.

The Suſſex *foundred, and Sir* Fran. Wheler *drown'd.*

Beſides this Loſs, there were many others very conſiderable, both as to Ships and Men, a particular Account whereof (as near as it can be collected) is hereafter mention'd, *viz.*

	Men.	
The *Cambridge*, a Ship of 70 Guns, went on Shoar about 4 in the Morning, and loſt	100	*Other Loſſes.*

	Men.
The *Lumley Caſtle* had the like Misfortune near 10 at Night, and loſt	130
The *Serpent* Bomb-Veſſel foundred, and loſt	15
The *William* Ketch ran on Shoar, and loſt	15
The *Mary* Ketch founder'd, and loſt	16
The *Great George*, a *Turkey* Ship, ran on Shoar, and loſt	90
The *Aleppo* Factor ran on Shoar, and loſt	3
The *Golden* Frigat of *Venice* ran on Shoar, and loſt	23
The *Berkſhire*, a *Turkey* Ship, ran on Shoar, and loſt	15
The *Indian* Merchant, another *Turkey* Ship, ran on Shoar, and loſt	1
The *William*, bound for *Leghorne*, ran on Shoar in the Evening, and loſt	2
	409
Loſt in the *Suſſex*	448
In all	857

The

The *Hollandia*, a *Dutch* Ship of 70 Guns, ran on Shoar in *Gibraltar* Bay, but got off again with the loſs of all her Maſts.

Several other Ships, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, ran on Shoar; and hardly one of the whole Squadron eſcaped, without conſiderable Damage in their Maſts, and otherwiſe.

The Squadron Reunites at Gibraltar.

But the Squadron (or the greateſt part thereof) being got together at *Gibraltar*, it was thought Adviſeable, at a Council of War, to repair from thence to *Cadiz*, with all the Ships that were in a Condition; for there it was judg'd they might be more ſafe from the *French*: But contrary Winds kept them at *Gibraltar* till the beginning of *May*.

I lately took notice of the Orders given by Sir *Francis Wheler* to Vice-Admiral *Hopſon*, to return from *Cadiz* to *England* with the Trade, after having ſtay'd a certain time there; but before he could leave that Place, the Governor received an Order from his Catholick Majeſty, directing him to communicate to the Captains of the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships, an Account of the Motion of the Enemy, to prevent any Surprize ſhould they leave that Port; Notwithſtanding which, having a fair Opportunity, he ſailed with his Convoys,

Vice-Admiral Hopſon *arrives in* England *with his Convoys.*

and arrived off of the *Lizard* the 5th of *April*, 1694.

The Breſt Squadron get into the Streights.

Rear-Admiral *Nevill* had alſo Advice at *Cadiz*, That on the 4th of *May*, 1694, there paſſed by *Gibraltar* Eaſtward, a Fleet of 53 Sail, and that 35 of them appeared to be large Ships, but ſhewed no Colours. Theſe were the Ships order'd from *Breſt* to join the *Thoulon* Squadron, and which had been ſome time before within the *Streights*, and burnt 4 *Spaniſh* Men of War, in their Paſſage to *Barcelona* with Soldiers.

The *Spaniards* about this time had a Defeat in *Catalonia*; and in the beginning of *June*, the Duke of *Oſſuna* was ordered from Court, with Power to fit out the Galleons at *Cadiz*, that ſo they might join our Forces; but he died on the Road, and, as ſome thought, not of any natural Diſtemper.

The Duke of Oſſuna coming to Cadiz to fit out the Galleons, dies.

Thus ſtood Affairs in that part of *Europe*; but ſoon after, Admiral *Ruſſell*, with the moſt conſiderable Parts of the Fleets, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, arrived at *Cadiz*, after he had left the Lord *Berkeley*, Admiral of the Blue, with the remainder for the Expedition againſt *Breſt*; an Account of whoſe Proceedings, from the time he ſailed from *St. Helen's*, as alſo of the ill Succeſs our Forces had in the Attempt they made

made on that conſiderable Port of the Enemy's, I ſhall now proceed to give you.

The whole Fleet being at *St. Hellen's*, and the Forces deſign'd on Service againſt *Breſt* on their March towards *Portſmouth*, where they were to embark, the Admiral gave Orders to Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, on the 3d of *May*, 1694, to remain there with 3 Firſt Rates, 9 Second, 13 Thirds, 7 Fourths, 4 Fifths, and 3 Sixth Rates, till their Companies were paid, and, during that time, to conſider how many of the Land Forces (ſuppoſed to be about 6000) each Ship could conveniently take on board, and what Numbers might embark on board the Tenders left there for that purpoſe, wherein he was ordered to Adviſe with Lieutenant General *Talmarſh*.

Mr. Ruſſell *leaves* Sir Cloudeſly Shovell *to take in the Forces at* Portſmouth *deſign'd againſt* Breſt.

With the reſt of the Fleet the Admiral ſailed, and reached the appointed Station 15 Leagues S. S. W. from the *Lizard* the 9th of *May*, where he was informed by the Maſter of a *Swediſh* Ship, who came from *Breſt* but 2 Days before, that the Ships which had for ſome time lain in readineſs to ſail from that Port, departed thence the 25th of *April*, our Stile, with a ſtrong Eaſterly Wind, and that 40 or 50 Sail of Mer-

He ſails into the Soundings *with the reſt of the Fleet.*

Has Advice when the French ſailed from Breſt.

chant Ships lay in *Bertram* Bay, bound Eaſtward under Protection of a Man of War or two. Upon this he ordered the *Monmouth* and *Reſolution*, with a Fireſhip, to go between the Trade-way and the Main, and endeavour to take or deſtroy them. Captain *Pickard*, who commanded them, brought with him into the Fleet two of the Veſſels, a large Flyboat and a Pink, loaden with Salt, having, as he reported, forced on Shoar about 35 Sail.

Some French Merchant Ships deſtroy'd in Bertram Bay.

When the Fleet had been ſome Days on the Station, it was judged neceſſary to repair to *Torbay*, that ſo the other part thereof, with the Soldiers, might be the ſooner joined: In order whereunto the Admiral writ to Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, letting him know, That if the Wind continued Weſterly, he had thoughts of coming to him at *Spithead*, but if Eaſterly, to remain in *Torbay* for him: And according to this Reſolution he ſailed, and arrived at *St. Hellen's* the 23d, where he applied himſelf with greateſt Diligence in the diſtribution of the Land-Forces, and compleating the Proviſions, that ſo an Opportunity might be taken of the firſt fair Wind; and Cruizers were ordered on proper Stations to gain Intelligence.

The Admiral arrives at St. Hellen's.

All

All Things being diſpatched, he ſail'd, and, by ſtopping of Tides, got off the *Berry* the 2d of *June*; being confirmed in his former Opinion, by the Advices he received, that the *French* Ships were gone from *Breſt* to *Thoulon*. *Sails again from thence.*

It was Agreed, That when the Fleet was in a proper Station, the Squadron with the Land-Forces ſhould ſeparate, upon making the appointed Signal, and ſteer away for *Breſt*, and that then the Admiral himſelf ſhould take his Courſe towards the *Mediterranean* with the Remainder: And, that no Time might be loſt, he prepared Orders, before he ſailed from *St. Hellen*'s, by which the Lord *Berkely* was directed how to govern himſelf on this Expedition, the Contents whereof was as follows:

1. He was thereby informed what Ships, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, were to be under his Command, and directed to proceed with them to *Breſt*, and, when there, to land the Officers and Soldiers in ſuch a manner, and at ſuch Place or Places, as ſhould be Agreed on by a Council of War of the General Officers both at Sea and Land, who were to conſider, before they arrived at *Breſt*, how the Forces might be beſt aſſiſted by the Ships, *Lord Berkeley's Inſtructions for attempting Breſt.*

nither in Landing or otherwiſe, as alſo when it might be moſt proper for the Men of War to go into *Breſt* Water, to aſſiſt in carrying on the Deſign againſt the Town, and the Ships there.

2. When the Forces and Ships had done what they were able againſt *Breſt*, it was then to be conſidered what Service might be performed on any other of the *French* King's Ports, and how the ſame might be moſt effectually put in Execution.

3. And when a Council of War ſhould judge that no farther Service could be done, either by Sea or Land, and think it Adviſeable to have the Forces taken on Board again, he was to cauſe the ſame to be done, and then to repair to, and remain at *Torbay*, or *Spithead*, till he received Orders from the King, or Lords of the *Admiralty*.

4. His Lordſhip was likewiſe directed to uſe his beſt Endeavours to protect the Forces, at all times when it ſhould be thought proper to Land them, and Embark them again; And if the General Officers ſhould at any time judge it neceſſary, to have part of the Seamen put on Shoar, to ſtrengthen the Land-Forces, and that

the

the Ships might conveniently ſpare them, he was to detach ſuch a Number as the ſaid General Officers ſhould deſire, or at leaſt ſo many as he could without Hazard to the Ships.

Having now given you the Contents of the Inſtructions to the Lord *Berkley*, it will appear by the following Account what Naval Strength was ſent with him on this Service, *viz.*

The Naval Strength with Ld. Berkley.

Rates.	*Number.*
1	2
2	4
3	12
4	1
5	2
Fireſhips	10
Hoſpitals	3
Brigantines	3

Beſides Bomb-Veſſels, Advice-Boats, *&c.*

Dutch.

Ships of the Line	19
Fireſhips	4

For the more regular carrying on this Deſign, his Lordſhip was ordered to cauſe the Ships and Veſſels before-mentioned, and all the Tenders, and Well-Boats,

Boats, (which latter were particularly built for putting Men on Shore) to keep near the Flags whereto they were reſpectively appointed, and to ſhift their Pendants accordingly, that ſo when the Signal ſhould be made for parting, each might follow his proper Flag without confuſion; for at this time there was not many who knew that the Fleet was to be divided on particular Services.

Care being thus taken for the Fleet bound to *Breſt*, and the Rendezvous for them in caſe of Separation appointed to be *Camoret* Bay, the Admiral did next conſider, what was neceſſary to be done, with reſpect to the Ships he had appointed to proceed with him into the *Mediterranean*; and knowing what ill Conſequences might attend Separation, in caſe the Ships ſo ſeparated knew not certainly where to join again, he gave to each Captain the following Rendezvous, *viz.*

The Rendezvous given by the Admiral to the Ships deſigned for the Streights.

That if they happen'd to loſe ſight of the Fleet when 50 Leagues S. W. from the *Lizard*, and that the Winds blew ſo hard Weſterly as to oblige the Fleet to bear up, they ſhould repair to *Torbay*: But if they happened to loſe company by reaſon of a Fog, or other Accident, when

when Eaſtward of the aforeſaid Station, they were to make the beſt of their way 15 Leagues Weſt from Cape *Spartell*, and remain there till join'd by the Fleet, or otherwiſe ordered; and they were ſtrictly forbid to chaſe out of their way, on any Pretence whatever, or to diſcover where they were bound to any Ship or Veſſel they might meet with. But by reaſon there was a Probability of their joining him before he reach'd the Rendezvous near Cape *Spartell*, he let them know, that, as the Winds proved, he did deſign to come within 25 Leagues Weſt of Cape *Finiſter*, and within 20 of Cape *St. Vincent*, and that from thence he would proceed directly to the Rendezvous: And the Captains were expreſly directed not to break up the Sealed Rendezvous, unleſs they ſhould happen to be ſeparated with the Wind Eaſterly, and then they were to inform themſelves of the Contents thereof, and repair to the Fleet 15 Leagues S.W. from the *Lizard*.

All things being now adjuſted for the Fleet's ſeparating, a Council of War was

was called the 31ſt of *May*, 1694, of the Flags and General Officers; who taking into Conſideration the ſeveral Particulars relating to the Squadron appointed for *Breſt*, came to the following Reſolutions, *viz.*

Reſult of a Council of War about attacking Breſt.

1. That the ſaid Squadron ſhould make the beſt of their way to, and Anchor in *Camoret* Bay, and the Land Forces be immediately ſet on Shore: And that the Fleet ſhould continue at Anchor till they received Advice from General *Talmarſh*, of the Condition of the Fort on the Starboard-ſide going in, and what Forces he found there.
2. That it was not proper to come to any poſitive Reſolution at what time the Fleet ſhould go in to *Breſt* Water; and therefore they left that Matter to be conſidered of when they arrived in *Camoret* Bay.
3. That a Red Enſign at the Fore-top-maſt-head on board the Admiral of the Blue, and firing a Gun, ſhould be the Signal for the Soldiers embarking on board the ſmall Craft, and Boats; and the taking down that Signal, with two Guns, for their going on Shore.

There

There were present at this Council,

Admiral *Russell*,
Lord *Berkeley*,
Sir *Cloudesly Shovell*,
Vice-Admiral *Aylmer*,
Rear-Admiral *Mitchell*,
Marquis of *Carmarthen*,
Captain *Bing*.

Lieutenant-General *Talmarsh*,
Earl of *Macclesfield*,
Lord *Cutts*,
Sir *Martin Beckman*.

Admiral *Almonde*,
Vice-Admiral *Vanderputt*,
Vice-Admiral *Schey*,
Rear-Admiral *Vandergoes*,
Rear-Admiral *Evertsen*,
Captain *Vander Dussend*.

The 6th Day of *June*, 1694, in the Afternoon, the two Fleets parted; and since that Commanded by the Lord *Berkeley* came first to their appointed Service, I think it may be most proper to begin with their Proceedings, and then to follow the Admiral himself to the *Streights*. *The Fleet separates.*

My Lord *Berkeley* being arrived in *Camoret* Bay, a Council of War was called

called on board the *Queen* the 8th of *June*, where was preſent his Lordſhip, Lieutenant-General *Talmarſh*, and all the Flags and General Officers, by whom it was reſolved, That the Lieutenant-General ſhould go on Shore with the Troops as ſoon as 'twas poſſible, and endeavour to make himſelf Maſter of the Fort at *Camoret*, and that four or five Frigats ſhould cover him in Landing.

Reſolution taken about Landing.

Accordingly, a conſiderable Number of the Forces were put on Shore; but the *French* being fortified in every Place, and intrenched almoſt in every Bay, our Men were ſo warmly received on all ſides, that they were ſoon obliged to return to the Boats, and in no little Diſorder.

Some of the Forces put on ſhore but repulſed.

In this Action we loſt about 600 Men, and the Lieutenant-General himſelf was wounded in the Thigh, of which he ſoon after died at *Plimouth*. The *Monk*, *Charles* Galley, and *Shoreham*, ſome of the Ships that were ſent in to protect the Landing, and to batter the *French* Forts, were very much ſhatter'd, and in them, and the others, about 112 Men were killed and wounded; a *Dutch* Frigat was ſunk, and her Captain killed; beſides many other Damages.

Lieutenant-General Talmarſh *dies of his wound*

The

The Bays of *Camoret* and *Bertram* were in a manner a Citadel; for where there was any Place to put Forces on Shore, there had the *French* Batteries and Retrenchments, and they threw Bombs at our Ships from 5 or 6 ſeveral Places.

A Council of War called to conſider what might be further done.

So ſoon as the Land Forces were got on board, a General Council of War was held; and ſince they found it impracticable to attempt any thing further at *Breſt*, it was conſidered what might be done with the Fleet and Army. The Lieutenant-General informed them, that he had not ſufficient Authority to attempt any other Place, and therefore propoſed that a Squadron of ſmall Frigats, with the Bomb-Veſſels, might be ſent into that Harbour, to try if they could Bomb the Town. This was thought by no means adviſeable, for the Ships could not go in without a Weſterly, nor come out without an Eaſterly Wind; and ſince it was not known what Strength the *French* had at that Port, they might run the hazard of falling into their Hands: Beſides, in battering the Forts, one of them was ſunk, and moſt of the others render'd unfit for Service. In fine, it was agreed, that the Fleet ſhould repair to *Spithead*, the fitteſt Place to land the Troops at, and to refit the Ships.

Thus

Thus ended this unlucky Expedition; but I cannot leave it without making this Obſervation, That the *French* would not in all probability have been in ſuch a Poſture to receive our Troops, had not early Advice been given them of our Debates and Reſolutions concerning that Affair, by *French* Men who were conſulted and adviſed with therein.

The Fleet arrives at St. Hellens.

The Fleet ſailing from *Gamber* Bay, arrived at *St. Hellens* the 15th of *June*, 1694, and there Orders were received from the Queen, That a Council of War of the Flags and General Officers ſhould conſider how the Ships and Troops might be beſt employed. They were of Opinion, That the Fleet ſhould ſail to the Coaſt of *France*, and annoy the Enemy not only with the Bomb-Veſſels, but by landing in the Country; and that the ſame might be the better effected, it was deſired that ſome more ſmall Frigats might be ſent to the Fleet, to ſuſtain the Bomb-Veſſels, which the greater Ships could not do.

A Council of War reſolve to annoy the Enemy by bombing, and landing Men.

The 16th of *June* another Council was called, where 'twas agreed, That ſome place on the Coaſt of *Normandy* might with moſt ſucceſs be bombarded, and that four Regiments would be ſufficient to ſecure the Bomb-Veſſels againſt the Attempts of the *French*, and for other neceſſary Services. The

The Fleet being refitted, and the Seamen and Land-Forces refreſh'd, the Queen's Orders were receiv'd the 27th of *June*, and thereupon another Council was call'd, where it was agreed, That, ſince the Wind was freſh Weſterly, the Fleet ſhould firſt proceed and bombard *Diepe*, and then do what other Prejudice they could along the *French* Coaſt. Being arrived there, they were prevented in making any Attempt, by bad Weather, which not only diſperſed the Ships, but endamaged ſome of them in their Maſts and Rigging; ſo that they were conſtrain'd to return to the Coaſt of *England*, and Anchored off of *Dungeneſſe*, where the ſcattered Ships and Veſſels joined the 5th of *July*, and ſailing thence again to *Diepe* Road, it was intended to bombard that Town the 9th in the morning; in order whereunto ſeveral of the Bomb-Veſſels were advanced near in with the Shoar; but it blowing hard at night, they were prevented by the great Sea thereby occaſion'd.

The 13th the Town of *Diepe* was bombarded, and ſo effectually too, that it appeared to be all in Flames, and the night before a Machine Veſſel was blown up at the Pier-head, but with little or no Succeſs, occaſioned, as was ſuppoſed, by the Heads lying ſo low. *Diepe bombarded.*

Captain *Dunbarr*, who commanded this Veſſel, behaved himſelf with great Bravery; for the Fuze going out, he went on board again, and ſet fire to it; for which, both himſelf, and the Men he took with him, were deſervedly rewarded.

Havredegrace bombarded.

The Fleet ſailed from *Dieve* the 14th in the Afternoon; moſt of the few Houſes that were ſtanding being on fire, and on the 16th the Bombardment of *Havredegrace* began, which had ſo good effect, that the Town was on fire in ſeveral places, and burnt all that Night and the next Day; nor were the Flames extinguiſhed the 18th, inſomuch that it was reaſonably conjectured, at leaſt a third part of the Town was conſumed. The 19th the Weather was very bad, ſo that all the Bomb-Veſſels were ordered off, and not above five of them were ſerviceable. As for the reſt, the Mortars were either melted, or the Veſſels ſo ſhattered, that no preſent uſe could be made of them; and one of them, called the *Granada*, was entirely blown to pieces by a Bomb that fell into her.

The Fleet proceeds off La Hogue, Cherbrook, &c. *and then repairs to* St. Hellens.

A Council of War agreed it would be but loſing of time to ſtay longer at *Havredegrace*, and therefore determined to proceed to *St. Hellens*, and endeavour

to

to repair the Damages received: But it was thought adviſeable, if Wind and Weather would admit of it, to proceed firſt to *La Hogue*, or *Cherbrooke*, or both, to alarm the *French*, and draw their Land-Forces further Weſtward. Accordingly the Fleet ſailed, and appeared off of thoſe Places, tho' they met with ruffling Weather; and this alarmed the *French* ſo much, that they fired ſeveral Guns, and made many Fires on the Shoar; but we not being able to do any Service on them, ſtretched it over to *St. Hellens*, and arrived there the 26th in the Afternoon, and then all the Bomb-Veſſels and Well-Boats were ſent into the Harbour to be refitted, and ſix of the Regiments were put on Shoar by the Queen's Order. Some time was ſpent in getting all things ready for Service, ſo that the Fleet could not reach the *Downes* (as was ordered) before the 9th of *Auguſt*, and there a Council of War was called on the 17th, upon a Signification of Her Majeſty's Pleaſure, That an Attempt ſhould be made on *Dunkirk*, if it ſhould be thought practicable, and that it might not too much expoſe the Ships of War in this Seaſon of the Year, on ſo dangerous a Coaſt. This Matter was debated, and all the *Engliſh* Pilots, and *The Fleet arrives in the Downs.*

one of the *Dutch*, (the only one in the Squadron) were conſulted, who would not undertake to carry a Squadron of Frigats and Fireſhips into *Flemiſh* Road; for that the diſtance between the Brake and the Wooden Forts was not above Piſtol-ſhot, and that there was not Water enough for the Ships to ride Eaſtward; nor could they (as they ſaid) come out again with the Wind that would carry them in. Upon Conſideration whereof, and that the Seaſon of the Year was too far advanced, as alſo that there were no more than 5 ſmall Frigats, (not a fourth part of what was neceſſary to ſuſtain the Bomb-Veſſels, and bring off their Men, becauſe of the Number of ſmall Ships and Veſſels the *French* might make uſe of to intercept them) it was agreed by the Council of War, as it was by Sir *Martin Beckman*, Colonel of the Artillery, and Mr. *Meeſters*, the Inventer of the Machine Veſſels prepared for this fatal Exploit againſt *Dunkirk*, that it was impracticable to attempt any thing, at this time, againſt that important Place.

A Council of War judge it impracticable to attempt Dunkirk *this Year.*

But in regard the Plan of *Calais* was ſent to the Fleet from *Flanders*, by the King's particular Command, the Council of War were of Opinion ſome Ser-

vice

vice might be done there, and therefore determined to ſail thither with the Bomb-Veſſels; but before the Weather would let them ſtir, my Lord *Berkeley* received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, and thereupon called the Sea Officers together, and conſulted with them only, what Atrempts might be made with proſpect of Succeſs, upon the *French* Ships of War in *Dunkirk* Road: And although the Pilots that were diſcourſed thereupon, did abſolutely refuſe to carry in ſo much as a Fourth Rate Frigat, yet it was agreed, That if able Pilots could be procured, well acquainted with the Eaſtern and Weſtern Paſſages; the Ships in the Road might be deſtroyed upon a Spring Tide (the only proper time for doing it) with double the number of Frigats to thoſe of the *French*, ſome Fireſhips, Brigantines, and other Tenders.

The Three Deckt Ships ordered to the Nore.

But now the Winter Seaſon being advanced, the Three Deck Ships were ordered the 27th of *Auguſt*, 1694, to the *Nore*, and my Lord *Berkeley* himſelf coming to Town; the reſt of the Fleet was left with Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, who was in daily expectation of proper Pilots for making the Attempt on the Ships at *Dunkirk*; but ſoon after Rear-Admiral *Hopſon* (who in Conjunction of

ſeveral *Dutch* Ships, was off of that Port to watch the Motions of Monſieur *du Bart*) informed him, that all the Pilots with them were very averſe to carry in our Ships, but that it was his Opinion, as well as that of the Captains of each Nation, That with 12 Frigats and 8 Fireſhips, with the Sloops and Brigantines as Sir *Cloudeſly* had propoſed, Service might be done on the Enemy's Ships.

Mr. Meeſters *propoſes the deſtroying the Forts at* Dunkirk.

About this time Mr. *Meeſters* (who I have before mentioned) made a Propoſal for deſtroying the Forts before *Dunkirk* with his Machines; but whatever Succeſs might be hoped for from thoſe Veſſels in the midſt of Summer, there was little Probability of their doing much Service at this Seaſon of the Year; ſo that it was not particularly inſiſted upon that he ſhould attempt the Forts, but Orders were ſent to him to proceed to the Coaſt of *Flanders*, and to endeavour to keep in the *French* Ships, and attempt them there if practicable; but if not, to ſend the Bombs, Machines, and other Veſſels to the *Nore*.

Purſuant to theſe Orders he ſailed, but was obliged to Anchor off of the South *Foreland* the 5th of *September*, to ſtay for the ſmall Craft, which ran no little hazard at this time of the Year,

for

for ſome of them were not much bigger than Long-Boats. Here he receiv'd a Letter from Mr. *Meeſters* at *Oſtend*, by which he ſeemed confident of doing conſiderable Service with his Machines at *Dunkirk*, and let him know, that in order thereunto, he was coming to the Squadron with all the haſte he could. This made Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* repair to the *Downes*, becauſe there Mr. *Meeſters* might have much better conveniency of putting his Veſſels into a condition for his Enterprize, than on the Coaſt of *Flanders*.

Mr. *Meeſters* arrived in the *Downes* the 7th, with about 26 *Dutch* Pilots, and (among other things propoſed by him for the better effecting his Deſign) he deſired that a Captain might be appointed to command the ſmall Ships, with Inſtructions to follow his Advice in Sailing and Anchoring. That he might be gratified in this Particular, Captain *Benbow* (ſince a Flag-Officer) was appointed to that Command, and on the 8th of *September* Orders were ſent to Sir *Cloudeſly*, that in caſe thoſe Pilots Mr. *Meeſters* had brought with him from *Flanders*, would undertake to carry in ſuch Ships as ſhould be thought neceſſary, he ſhould proceed, and Attempt the Pier, Harbour, and Town, or the Ships in the Road.

Mr. Meeſters comes to Sir Cloudeſly Shovell in the Downes with Dutch Pilots.

The Squadron being on the Coaſt of *Flanders* with a Northerly Wind, Mr. *Meeſter*'s acquainted Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, that his Pilots were of Opinion the *French* could not carry out their Ships at the Eaſt-end of *Dunkirk*, and therefore he anchored in *Gravelin Pits*; and the Boats and Brigantines went before *Dunkirk*, under Protection of the *Sally-Roſe*, and Sounded, to make themſelves better acquainted with the Weſtern Chanel between the *Brake* and the Main; for all the Pilots, except two or three, declared themſelves ignorant of that Paſſage. Captain *Benbow* found the Narrow to be above three Cables length in breadth, and in depth from 3½ to 7 Fathom, at low Water; and the Brigantines, and Sloops, that lay to and fro on the back of the *Brake*, found a great Chanel of 7, 8, 9, and 10 Fathom, at low Water, about a Mile and half broad, or ſomewhat more; that is, ſo far as they went into it, which was till they had *Dunkirk* South of them.

Captain Benbow *ſounds the Paſſage into* Dunkirk, *and gives an Account.*

The ſight of our Veſſels put the *French* into a great Conſternation, and a Frigat of about 20 Guns that lay in the Road, fired very ſmartly at our Boats which were got within the *Brake*. Many Guns, and ſome Bombs, were fired from the Citadel, the *Riſe Bank* and

The French at Dunkirk *in a Conſternation.*

and the Forts at the Pier-head; and five of their Frigats, from 40 to 50 Guns each, were hawled out of the Baſin, and rigg'd; and 3 or 4 ſmall Ships were placed in the Chanel between the Pier-heads and the Town; but notwithſtanding all this, our little Fleet of Boats, *&c.* came off in the Night, without having received any Damage.

The Boats and ſome of Mr. Meeſters Machines ſent in.

The next Day, the Wind being from the North to the North-Eaſt, and fair Weather, all the Boats and ſmall Veſſels were ſent in again, as was the *Charles* Galley, and two Bomb-Veſſels, and ſome of the Machines which Mr. *Meeſters* had appointed. When the Veſſels came near the *Brake*, the *French* Frigat that lay without got up her Anchor, fired her Broad-ſide, and then ran into the Pier.

Two of the Machines blown up without Succeſs.

In the Afternoon two of the Machines were, without Succeſs, blown up a little diſtance from the Pier-heads; nor was there any great hopes of better Service from the reſt, for the *French* had drove Piles without theſe Heads, and ſunk four Ships on the back of the Weſtermoſt Pier very advantageouſly.

Mr.

Mr. *Meeſters* now informed Sir *Cloudeſly*, That, ſince the Spring was paſt, his Pilots would not undertake to carry the Ships through the Sands to the Eaſtward of *Dunkirk*, and that therefore he thought it not proper to continue longer with his Veſſels on the *French* Coaſt, wherefore they were ſent to the *Downes*, and at the ſame time a ſmall Frigat was order'd thither with Sir *Martin Beckman*, to bring the Veſſels for Bombarding *Calais*, who arriving with them the 16th, the Squadron forthwith proceeded off of that Place, but the Weather proved ſo very bad for ſeveral Days, that little Service was done, and both the Ships of War, and others, were conſtrain'd to come into the *Downes*, from whence the Bombs and Machines were ſent into the River of *Thames*.

Mr. Meeſters returns to the Downes, and the Bomb-Veſſels ſent for, but bad Weather prevented any Service.

Thus ended our Attempts on the *French* at home this Year; and altho' I will not pretend to make an exact Computation of the Expence theſe Bombardments put the Nation to, yet I do verily believe, that it was more than equivalent to the Damage the Enemy ſuſtain'd thereby.

I ſhall now return to that part of the Fleet which was ſent to the *Streights*, and give a particular Account of all

Tranſ-

Tranſactions, during the time that Admiral *Ruſſell*, and, after him, Sir *George Rooke* continued in thoſe Parts.

Mr. *Ruſſell*, as I ſaid before, parted with the Lord *Berkeley* on the 6th of *June*, 1694, and on the 25th of that Month he got into the Latitude of 39 Degrees, off of the Rock of *Lisbon*, at which time the *Mary* and *Adventure*, under Command of Captain *John Jennings*, were ſent to Cape *St. Vincent*, where, or at ſome Place thereabouts, he was ordered to ſend his Boat on Shoar, to get intelligence whether the Enemy was, or had been, on that Coaſt: And in caſe he got certain Advice of their being there, but that they were not ſo placed as to prevent the *Adventure*'s paſſing them, he was to ſend her to the Bay of *Cadiz*, with a Packet to Rear-Admiral *Nevill*, (a Duplicate whereof he was alſo ordered to diſpatch to him by Land) by which he was required to ſail with all the Ships under his Command, except the *Turkey* Convoy, and join the Fleet; and for his better Government therein, the Admiral let him know, That he did deſign to come South, 15 or 20 Leagues from Cape *St. Vincent*, and (if the Wind continued fair) the ſame diſtance from Cape *St. Mary*'s, and then 15 Leagues Weſt from Cape *Spar-*

Admiral Ruſſell arrives off of the Rock of Lisbon.

Rear-Admiral Nevill ordered to join him from Cadiz.

Spartell. Theſe Orders he was directed to Communicate to Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, who commanded ſeveral *Dutch* Ships, that ſo he might accompany him, but not to diſcover the Reaſon of his Sailing to any but thoſe who ought neceſſarily to know it.

The Fleet being got thus far, the Admiral ſettled ſuch Rendezvouſes as were proper, in caſe of Separation in his Paſſage up the *Streights*; and the 30th of *June* the *Portſmouth* was diſpatched off of Cape *Spartell*, to give notice to the *Mary*, *Adventure*, and *Lark*, to make the beſt of their way to the Fleet, and to inform the *Spaniſh* Admiral, if he met him with his Squadron at Sea, of our Approach.

Rear-Admiral *Nevill*, with the two *Dutch* Vice-Admirals, *Callemberg* and *Evertſen*, joining the Fleet from *Cadiz*, with 8 *Engliſh*, and as many of the Ships of the States General, (which made the whole Number 63 Ships of the Line) a Council of War was called of all the Flag Officers, by whom it was thought moſt Adviſeable, that the Merchant Ships bound up the *Levant*, ſhould repair to *Carthagena*, and remain there until Care could be taken for their proceeding farther on their Voyage with Safety: And theſe Gentlemen taking alſo into Con-

A Council of War called of Engliſh *and* Dutch *Flags.*

Conſideration the Intelligence of the *French* Fleet's being off of *Barcelona*, and the adjacent Coaſts, came to a Reſolution, That the Fleet ſhould forthwith proceed thither, and the neceſſary Rendezvouſes were appointed, in caſe of Separation by bad Weather, or other Accidents. *Agreed the Fleet ſhould ſail to* Barcelona.

Notwithſtanding much bad Weather, and contrary Winds, the Fleet got off of Cape *Spartell* the Firſt of *July*, having met with no other Damage, than the loſs of two ſmall Veſſels that attended on the Admiral's own Ship.

The *Spaniards* ſailed from *Cadiz* with 9 Ships of War; the ſame time that Rear-Admiral *Nevil* did, but had not yet join'd the Fleet; and the Admiral had now farther Advice, That the Enemy were with 70 Sail between *Alſegnes* and *Barcelona*; ſo that our Force (when join'd by the *Spaniards*) would be almoſt equal to theirs. *Advice of the French Fleet.*

The Admiral writ to Mr. *Stanhope*, the *Engliſh* Envoy at *Madrid*, and let him know, That he hoped to be ſo timely at *Barcelona*, as to enable him to prevent farther Miſchief from the *French* in thoſe Parts: And for the greater Safety of the Fleet, two Frigats were ordered to ſail on the Starboard, and two others on the Larboard Bow, *Cruizers ſent out for Intelligence.*

but

but not at ſo great a Diſtance, as to hinder their Sails being ſeen above Water: Nor were they upon meeting any *French* Ships to chaſe beyond Cape *de Gate*; and if they fell in with any Ships or Veſſels, of what Nation ſoever, they were ordered to bring them into the Fleet to be examined. There were alſo three Frigats ſent on the Coaſt of *Barbary*, with Orders to ſtretch from Cape *Tres Forcas* over to the *Chriſtian* Shoar, to intercept any thing that the others might meet with, and chaſe Eaſtward.

During the Fleet's being under Sail, all poſſible Care was taken to put every Ship into a condition of doing Service, by taking Stores and other Neceſſaries from ſuch as could beſt ſpare, for thoſe that wanted; and ſtricteſt Orders were given, That all poſſible good Husbandry ſhould be uſed in expending their Proviſions.

The Argerine Men of War permitted to come into the Fleet, but not of them ſo readily as the Dutch.

The Admiral being informed, that ſeveral of the Ships of War belonging to the Government of *Argier* did intend to come and view the Fleet, ſignified his Deſire, both to the *Dutch* and others, That not only they, but the Ships of *Tunis* and *Tripoly* (with whom we were likewiſe in Alliance) might have that Liberty, and that no Acts of Hoſti-

Hostility might be used towards them within sight of his Flag, provided they came immediately to him with their Colours flying; but notwithstanding his Hopes that this would be complied with, one of the Ships of *Argier*, was soon after seized, in the Admiral's sight, by a *Dutch* Man of War; tho' such Measures were soon after taken for her Release, that neither His Majesty's Honour, or the Government of *Argier*, did suffer thereby: Nor were those People a little satisfied, as well at the generous Usage they received in this Particular, as in the seeing a Fleet in those Parts superior to what had ever been before, or probably ever may hereafter.

The 13th of *July*, 1684, the Fleet got as far as *Carthagena*, the Passage thither having been very tedious, by reason the Winds were Easterly, from the time they passed the Mouth of the *Streights*. This Impediment was very unlucky, for the Season of the Year was far advanced, and so much of their Provisions expended, that from after they could possibly get as high as *Barcelona*, there would be a Necessity of returning again. The *French*, having notice of our Approach, retired to the Isles of *Hieres*, where they were the 30th of

The Fleet arrives at Carthagena.

The French retire to the Isles of Hieres.

of this Month, and 'twas thought that they would either Diſarm their great Ships, and ſend Squadrons up the *Levant*, or go with their whole Fleet as high as *Malta*, where they knew very well we could not purſue them. I muſt here obſerve, that the principal Reaſon of our Fleet's coming ſo late into theſe Parts, was the Delay made at home in the Diſpatch of the Troops deſigned againſt *Breſt*, and Shipping them off, when at *Portſmouth*; for had that Service been diſpatched a Month ſooner, there would have been a fairer Proſpect of doing ſomething this Summer within the *Streights*.

The Marqueſs of *Camaraſſa*, General of the *Spaniſh* Galleys, upon the Fleet's approaching *Carthagena*, ſent to the Admiral a Letter, and deſired to know where the Fleet and the Galleys ſhould join; to which he returned a Compliment, and acquainted him, That he intended for *Barcelona* with all ſpeed.

The Fleet ſtops at Altea *to Water.*

The 17th of *July*, 1694, a Council of War agreed, That the Fleet ſhould ſtop at *Altea* Bay, for a Supply of Water, and that the *Turkey* Convoy ſhould remain at *Carthagena*, till further Intelligence could be had of the Enemy; to obtain which, three Frigats were ſent

to

to Cruize between Cape *Martin* and *Ivica*, for 24 Hours; and the *Adventure* was ordered 8 Leagues, the *Lark* 5, and another 2 Leagues, E. S. E. from the Eastermost part of *Alica*, for 36 Hours. But notwithstanding what was thus Agreed, it was, upon further Thoughts, judged necessary to order the *Turkey* Fleet to *Alicant*, and to re-inforce them there, by two *English* and one *Dutch* Man of War; and lest they should want Provisions, or other Necessaries, the Admiral writ to the Consul at *Carthagena* to furnish them.

The 25th of this Month the Admiral writ to Monsieur *Schonenberg*, Envoy from the States General at the *Spanish* Court, concerning the Circumstances of that King's Affairs: And first as to his Ships that had joined the Fleet; They were in number Ten, Four of which might indeed (for want of better) have been admitted into the Line of Battel, but the rest were of little Force, and withal so rotten, that they would hardly bear the firing of their own Guns. He then acquainted him, That the Sea-Port Towns were unprovided, both as to Men and all other War-like Preparations; insomuch that 'twas much to be feared, if a small Number

An Account of the Spanish Ships that join'd us.

The Admiral acquaints Monsieur Schonenberg with the bad Circumstances of the King of Spain's Affairs.

of the Enemy's Ships appeared before *Malaga* or *Alicant*, and attempted to Cannonade them, they would inſtantly be abandoned. He alſo obſerved to him, That *Catalonia* would not be able to reſiſt the Enemy, when the Fleet retired with the Land-Forces, in regard the *French* Army (as 'twas reported) conſiſted of near 25000 well diſciplined Men, with all Things neceſſary, and that the *Spaniards* did not exceed 9000, and they even without Tents, or other Materials proper for an Encampment: And that it was very reaſonable to apprehend, that when the *French* were Maſters of *Barcelona*, they would ſoon attempt the Iſland of *Minorca*; which could not well reſiſt 2000 Men 40 Hours, under its preſent ill Circumſtances. In fine, it was his Opinion, and a well-grounded one too, That unleſs the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia* did make ſome briſk Effort on the *French*, ſoon after the Fleet's coming there, that Principality would be in greateſt Danger, ſince he ſhould be obliged to return in very little time, the Ships of the States General having not Proviſions for more than all the next Month. Indeed had the *French* proceeded with Vigour, that Country would long before have fallen into their Hands;

for

for there was not an Army there capable to reſiſt them, and even moſt of thoſe that were in Arms, ſeem'd to be more fit for an Hoſpital than a Camp; nor was there Money to pay them, notwithſtanding the large Contributions of the *Catalonians*, the exacting whereof by the General Officers, to the utmoſt Extent, rendred thoſe People ſo miſerable, that, in expectation of better Uſage from *France*, (if that were poſſible) a little matter would have enclined them to a Revolt.

The Admiral's Reaſons againſt Wintering in the Streights.

At this time a Noble Lord propoſed the Fleet's Wintering in the *Mediterranean*, but the Admiral acquainted him, That he could by no means think it Adviſeable, ſince there was no Place fit to receive and protect them but *Mahone*, where there was a total want of Proviſions; nor could any Stores be timely got thither to refit the Ships againſt the Spring. That as for *Naples* there was no Defence, and *Meſſina* was not large enough. But there was another material Objection; For ſhould ſuch a Strength be abſent from *England* and *Holland* all the Winter, the *French* might make themſelves too ſtrong for us in the Chanel in the Spring.

A Council of War called, upon several Proposals from the Vice-Roy of Catalonia.

The First of *August*, 1694, the Admiral received a Letter from the Marquess *Villena*, Vicerоy of *Catalonia*, desiring his Opinion in several Particulars, upon which a Council of War was called, where each Article was considered, and the following Resolutions taken thereupon.

Article I.

That the better to reinforce the Spanish *Army*, 10000, *or at least* 8000, *Soldiers might be put ashore from the Fleet, to join those they had, and such as should be ordered from the* Spanish *Ships and Gallies.*

Answer.

That none of the Ships of His Majesty of *Great-Britain*, or the States-General had any Soldiers on board them.

Article II.

That if the First Proposal could not be complied with, the Fleet might go in pursuit of the Enemy, and endeavour to destroy them.

Answer.

That formerly there was not only hopes of meeting the *French* Fleet off

off of *Barcelona*, or at Sea, but that they would have given an opportunity of Engaging them; but finding them retired to *Thoulon*, within Fortifications, too ſtrong to be forced, the going thither would have no other Effect than the loſing Time; but that, however, if certain Advice could be got that they were at Sea, or in any Port where they might be attack'd, with probability of Succeſs, the Fleet would immediately proceed in queſt of them.

Article III.

How long the Fleet could continue in thoſe Seas?

Anſwer.

That in caſe he could undertake any Enterprize upon the Sea-Coaſt with his Forces, in order to the regaining any Places from the *French*, in which the Fleet might be aſſiſting, it would be readily embraced, provided it could be done without delay, for that they had no more Proviſions than was abſolutely neceſſary for them, in their Paſſage to *England*.

Vice-Roy of Catalonia his Anſwer to the Reſults of the Council of War

The Vice-Roy returned anſwer, That the only Enterprize which could be made on that Coaſt was the regaining of *Palamos*, wherein the Sea Forces might be very uſeful; but that in ſuch Caſe the *Spaniſh* Army ought to be re-inforc'd from the Fleet: And if that could not be done, he propoſed, That the Fleet might make ſome Invaſion on the Coaſt of *France*; and what Infantry ſhould be wanted for ſuch a Service, he promiſed to make up from his Army.

The Admiral lets him know the aſſiſtance he could give him.

To this he was told, That the Fleet was provided for an Engagement at Sea, but not to Invade the Enemy on Shore; and that it was not poſſible to furniſh any Land Men to re-inforce the *Spaniſh* Army; but that if he thought it convenient to ſend a Body of Soldiers in the Fleet, and Galleys, to attempt *Palamos*, all poſſible Aſſiſtance ſhould be given therein, by arming the Boats, and ſmall Veſſels, on any ſudden Aſſault; and hereunto his ſpeedy Anſwer was deſir'd, for that it was convenient to proceed Eaſtward in ſearch of the Enemy.

The Spaniſh Forces not of ſtrength to attack Palamos.

The Vice-Roy having conſider'd this, acquainted the Admiral that the Forces of his *Catholick* Majeſty were much inferior to thoſe of the *French*; and that having no proſpect of augmenting them, he did not think it adviſeable to attempt

tempt *Palamos*, or any other Place, in which the Fleet might be aſſiſting to him; but deſired to know, how long he could conveniently ſtay on that Coaſt. He was inform'd, That upon his firſt repreſentation of the State of *Catalonia*, care was taken to furniſh the Ships of the States General with 14 Days Proviſions from the *Engliſh*, that ſo the Fleet might ſtay there as long as poſſible; but that ſince there was at this time a general want, and that many Inconveniencies might thereby happen, by the coming in of Weſterly Winds, 'twas abſolutely neceſſary to retire towards the *Streights* Mouth in five or ſix Days.

The Vice-Roy miſinformed about the Proviſions made for the Fleet.

The Vice-Roy had repreſented that there was Three hundred and fifty thouſand Mens Proviſions for a Day, ready at this time at *Carthagena*, but it plainly appeared he was very much miſinform'd in that Particular; for a ſingle Ship that applied at that Port for only ſeven Days Proviſions, could not be furniſh'd therewith; nor was there more than 2000 Quintals of Bread; and no other Proviſion was made, beſides what the Admiral himſelf had given Orders for to the Conſul, on his own Account, as he paſs'd up the *Streights*.

Is apprehenſive of Barcelona *when the Fleet retires.*

The Vice-Roy was under great apprehenſions, that if the Fleet left the Coaſt of *Catalonia* while the Seaſon of fair Weather laſted, the *French* would appear by Sea before *Barcelona*; but if they had ſuch Intentions, it could not be prevented, the Fleet not being able to ſtay longer without running the greateſt Hazard; for Proviſions could not be ſupplied from *Spain*, eſpecially in that part thereof, but from Day to Day, which would not only render it impoſſible for them to return to *England*, but to proceed on any preſſing ſervice whatever. However, that the *French* might be as long Strangers to our retiring as 'twas poſſible, the Vice-Roy was deſired to keep it ſecret, or at leaſt to give it out that the Fleet was gone Eaſtward; for by this Means the Admiral was in hopes they would have no certain Advice, till he got as low as *Malaga*, by which time the Month of *September* would be well advanced, and in all probability produce bad Weather. The Vice-Roy was alſo deſired not to let it be known, that there was not a Number of Ships to be left in the *Streights*; for that if the Enemy wanted Information in theſe two Points, they would not eaſily conclude what Meaſures to take, till it might be too late for them

them to attempt any thing conſiderable.

The 9th of *Auguſt*, 1694, the Admiral acquainted the King of *Spain*, how much it troubled him that the Fleet could do no other Services, than the keeping the *French* from further attempts in *Catalonia*, during his remaining on the Coaſt: That he had hopes his Majeſty's Troops would have made ſome conſiderable Effort on the Enemy, at leaſt to have regain'd *Palamos*, and other Towns on the Coaſt, with the Aſſiſtance of the Fleet: And he likewiſe thought it neceſſary to repreſent to his Majeſty, That unleſs Care was immediately taken to put *Catalonia* in a better Poſture of Defence, it would be next to an Impoſſibility to preſerve it many Weeks under his Subjection, and that the Kingdom of *Valencia*, and the Sea-Port Towns, were in no better a Condition. That as for the Fleet, ſince there was no hopes of bringing the *French* to a Battel, or forcing them at *Toulon*, nor of employing it ſo as to do any conſiderable Service, he did deſign to return therewith to *England*, but that he could not leave *Barcelona*, without informing his Majeſty, That the Vice-Roy had not only treated him with all imaginable Civility, but zealouſly promoted

The Admiral writes to the King of Spain, and acquaints him of the ill Poſture of his Affairs in Catalonia, &c.

ted all things that were repreſented to him to be neceſſary.

The 15th of *Auguſt*, two Third Rate Ships and one Sixth were ordered to *Cadiz*, there to Refit and Victual, and and then to Convoy the Trade from thence to *England*: And now the Fleet being ready to leave *Barcelona*, a Council of War was called, to conſider in what manner the ſame might be done, ſo as to keep it moſt private. It was agreed, That when the Fleet ſailed an Appearance ſhould be made, the firſt Day, as if they were going Eaſtward, but that in the Night an Opportunity ſhould be taken of getting out to Sea, and proceeding Weſtward; and the neceſſary Rendezvouſes were ſettled in caſe of Separation, by ſtreſs of Weather, or Accidents.

An Amuſement for the French when the Fleet ſailed down the Streights.

Before the Admiral ſailed he writ a Letter to the Dey of *Algier*, letting him know, That the King his Maſter had ſent his Fleet into the *Streights*, to put a ſtop to the Proceedings of *France* againſt *Spain*; and that notwithſtanding their Inſinuations, that *England* had not Ships to ſpare for thoſe Parts, they thought it convenient to retire from him, and ſecure themſelves at *Thoulon*. He alſo acquainted that Government, That the Summer was too far ſpent to admit

Contents of a Letter from the Admiral to the Government of Algier.

admit of his coming to their Port, as he had deſigned, and that therefore he took the preſent Occaſion, to aſſure them of the great Eſteem the King his Maſter had of their Friendſhip and Amity.

This Letter was ſent to *Algier*, and recommended to Conſul *Baker*, who was then upon coming from thence, after he had reſided there many Years in that Capacity; and that by his Negotiations, and the particular Friendſhip the Dey had for him, he had contributed very much to the ſettling a good and firm Underſtanding between his Majeſty and that Government.

The Admiral when off of Malaga, does, contrary to Expectation, receive Orders to Winter at Cadiz.

When the Fleet was got as far down the *Streights* as *Malaga*, the Admiral (contrary to Expectations) received Orders from His Majeſty, under his Signet and Sign Manual, dated *Auguſt* the 7th, requiring him to continue in thoſe Seas, and to Winter at *Cadiz*, for the more effectual putting a ſtop to the Miſchiefs the *French* intended in *Catalonia*. This put a Period to all thoſe Methods which had been determined for carrying the Fleet to *England*, and therefore a Council of War was called, by whom it was reſolved forthwith to proceed up again as high as *Alicant*, that ſo the Ships of the States General might take in the Provi-

Reſolved to proceed as high as Alicant.

Proviſions ſaid to be ready for them: And ſeveral Ships with Victuals being arrived from *England*, Orders were diſpatched to *Cadiz*, for their going within the *Puntals*; for the Admiral had already taken care to procure ſo much as might be neceſſary till his return thither, which he intended not until ſome time in *October*, unleſs he had certain Information that the *French* had diſarmed their Ships.

He writes to the Vice-Roy of Catalonia.

He acquainted the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia*, That he had commands to remain in the *Mediterranean*, and deſired to hear from him at *Alicant*, and particularly whether he had any Account of the *French*, or that the Fleet might be of ſervice to that Principality. He alſo deſired Mr. *Stanhope*, Envoy at *Madrid*, to procure Orders from that Court, that *Pontal* might be made clear for the Ships, againſt their arrival at *Cadiz*, for the more convenient refreſhing them; and he writ very preſſingly to the Lords of the Admiralty, for a timely Supply of Men and Proviſions, and one of the Commiſſioners for Victualling to take care of that Affair, ſince it had already given him more trouble than he was longer able to undergo: And it may be truly ſaid, That ſuch Care was taken by him therein, that never

Writes home for a Supply of Men and Proviſions, &c.

never were Men furnished with better Provisions and Wine, and even that with so good Husbandry to the Publick, that it was not put to more Charge, although the Fleet was great, and consequently required very considerable Quantities, than for single Ships formerly: Nay in many Circumstances the Men were Victualled considerably cheaper; nor did he boggle at the Engaging his own Personal Estate, to give this so necessary Credit to his Country. *Observation about Victualling the Fleet.*

The Fleet being at *Alicant*, the Admiral sent from thence two light Frigats to *Mayork*, and directed the chief Commander of them to apply himself not only to the Vice-Roy, but the Consul also for News; but more particularly to desire the Consul to inform himself from all the Saicas, and other small Vessels lately arrived there, whether they had met with any Account of the Enemy. At this time Rear-Admiral *Nevil* was also sent from the Fleet, with a Squadron of 10 Ships, Southward of *Firmintiere*, with Orders to Cruize between the Islands and the *Barbary* Shore, for intercepting any of the Enemy's Ships in those Parts, and protecting the Ships and Vessels ordered to that Island to cut Wood for the use of *The Admiral sends to Mayork for News.* *Rear-Admiral Nevil sent with a Squadron off of Firmintiere.*

of the Fleet, and then to return Northward to *Alicant*, between the Iſlands and Cape *Martin*, if Wind and Weather would permit.

The Admiral taken dangerouſly Ill, and the Fleet committed by him to Vice-Admiral Aylmer.

During the Fleet's riding before *Alicant*, the Admiral was taken dangerouſly Ill of a Fever, and Bloody Flux, which in few Days obliged him to go on Shore; and my ſelf at that time falling under the ſame Diſtemper, accompanied him. But that the Fleet might not lie idle in his abſence, he gave Orders to Vice-Admiral *Aylmer* to take upon him the Command thereof, and to proceed and join the Ships with Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, near *Formentiere*, ſo ſoon as 'twas poſſible. It was particularly recommended to him to gain Intelligence of the Proceedings of the *French*, and to prevent their getting out of the *Mediterranean*; and in order thereunto to lie in ſuch Stations, and to employ the Ships of the Fleet in ſuch manner, as ſhould from time to time be adviſed by a Council of War: And upon meeting the Enemy's Fleet, or any part thereof, he was directed to uſe his beſt Endeavours to come up with and deſtroy them, and to chaſe them with the whole Fleet, or ſuch number of Ships as ſhould be thought moſt adviſeable, without having any regard

Inſtructions to Vice-Admiral Aylmer.

to

to the Admiral's being on Shore, or expecting further Orders from him for his Proceeding. It was alſo recommended to him, upon his diſcovering any *French* Ships ſtanding Weſtward, and endeavouring to paſs the *Streights*, to take care that ſuch a Number of Ships as might at leaſt equal their Force, were ſent after them as far as they ſhould go, or till ſuch time as they could come up with, and attack them, and to proceed himſelf with the remainder to *Cadiz*, and continue there till further Order. But in caſe he did not ſee the *French* Fleet in ſix Days after his being at Sea, or gain Information of their being come from *Thoulon*, he was then to return with the whole Fleet to *Alicant*; for by that time the Admiral had hopes of being in a Condition to come on Board.

Purſuant to theſe Orders Mr. *Aylmer* put to Sea with the Fleet, and meeting with nothing remarkable returned the 10th of *September*, 1694; but the Admiral being not then recovered of his Sickneſs, he ſent him Orders to call a Council of War, and maturely to conſider of the ſeveral Particulars following, that ſo no time might be loſt, when he himſelf could be able to return and take upon him the Command.

Mr. Aylmer ordered to conſider of ſeveral Particulars at a Council of War.

1. Whe-

1. Whether it was neceſſary for the Fleet to continue longer within the *Straights*?

2. Whether it might be convenient, when they returned to *Cadiz*, to leave ſome Ships, either within or without the *Straights*, to intercept any of the Enemy's Ships that might attempt to proceed into the Northern Seas: And if ſo, what Number of each Rate, and on what Station they might moſt properly lie to effect the ſame.

3. And ſince it was reported, that the *French* kept their Ships at *Toulon* in a conſtant readineſs to proceed to Sea, by which 'twas reaſonable to believe they intended either the whole or part of them to *Breſt*, ſo ſoon as Opportunity ſhould offer for their paſſing the *Straights*, he was therefore to conſider at a Council of War, what Ships in the Fleet were in the beſt Condition, and moſt proper to follow them, that ſo the latter Part of His Majeſty's Orders might be complied with, in caſe they ſhould make ſuch an Attempt.

This

This was the Care the Admiral took, notwithſtanding his Indiſpoſition had brought him very low; for the *French* kept themſelves in a conſtant Readineſs at *Thoulon*, both as to Proviſions, Men, *&c.* and if they had endeavoured to paſs the *Streights*, and our Fleet had been at the ſame time at *Cadiz*, they might have had many Advantages of us; for, in the firſt place, moſt or all of their Ships were kept clean, whereas ours were foul, and conſequently little Benefit could have attended our chaſing them. Next, there was an impoſſibility of doing it; for we had Proviſions but from Hand to Mouth, much leſs for a Squadron for a Voyage to *England*: Beſides, whatever the *French* might attempt, upon the Advantage of their being ſo well appointed, yet conſidering the ill Circumſtances of moſt of our Ships, the Hazard would not have been inconſiderable, of ſending them home at a Seaſon of the Year wherein they would have been expoſed to the worſt of Weather, eſpecially the nearer they drew towards our Chanel; nor indeed were the Ships Mann'd for ſuch an Undertaking.

Advantages the Enemy had for paſſing the Streights, and our ill Condition to follow them.

The Admiral received ſome Intelligence from the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia*, of the *French* Fleet's being at Sea; and

the Conſul at *Mayorke* acquainted him, That he had met with like Information: But he had other Advices, more to be depended upon, that they were harboured at *Thoulon*. However, that he might not want a conſtant and true Account of their Motion, he deſired the ſaid Conſul to hire ſome proper Veſſel, and to ſend her from time to time to *Thoulon*, loaden with Goods that might moſt conveniently, and with leaſt Suſpicion, be vended there, and under the Care of ſome truſty and diſcreet Perſon, who might inform himſelf, and give frequent Accounts of the Circumſtances of the Enemy's Fleet. But leſt the *French* ſhould paſs through the *Streights* along the *Barbary* Shore, a Frigat was ſent to *Oran*, and her Captain, directed to inform himſelf whether they had been ſeen off of that Coaſt, and then to join the Fleet: And another Frigat was ſent on the like Errand along the ſaid Coaſt, as high as *Tetuan*.

Methods taken for getting Intelligence.

The Court of *Spain* being now informed, that His Majeſty had ordered the Fleet to remain in the *Mediterranean*, a Memorial was ſent to the Admiral, by Order of His Catholick Majeſty, from Don *Alonſo Carnero*, Secretary of the Univerſal Diſpatch, propoſing, among

mong other Things, That the Fleet might Winter at Port *Mahone*. The Admiral returned him for Anſwer, "That he "was not a little ſurprized at ſuch a "Propoſition; for that nothing could "be had from the Iſland of *Minyorke*, "altho' the Fleet was under never ſo "preſſing Neceſſities. Beſides, all the "Stores and Proviſions to be ſent from "*England*, muſt, in ſuch caſe, have "been brought to Port *Mahone*, ſo that "the *French* would have had a large "Sea to range in ſearch of them; "and ſhould there have happened a "Want but of the leaſt Thing to en-"able a Ship to go to Sea, there ſhe "muſt have lain, till ſuch time as it "could be conveyed to her from *Ca-"diz* or *Naples*: Whereas if the Fleet "Winter'd at *Cadiz*, as the King had "ordered, it would be then in his "Power to ſend Ships from thence to "protect any Supply from *England*, or "to furniſh himſelf there upon any "immergent Occaſion.

The Spaniards propoſe the Fleet may Winter at Port Mahone.

The Admiral's Objections thereunto.

And now the Admiral being pretty well recover'd, he repaired on board the Fleet in the Road of *Alicant*, and having given the Neceſſary Orders, and appointed the Rendezvous in caſe of Separation, both within and out of the *Streights*, he ſailed and arrived at

The Fleet arrives at Cadiz.

Cadiz the 8th of *October*, 1694, having ſent thither before ſome light Frigats to be clean'd, in order to their being employed as Cruizers.

The French being at Palamos, the Spaniſh King deſires the Admiral to ſail that way.

The *Spaniſh* King receiving Advice from *Barcelona*, that the *French* were come to *Palamos*, with deſign to carry on the Siege of *Barcelona*, His Majeſty deſired the Admiral to repair with the Fleet that way; whereupon it was determined, That ſo ſoon as the *Dutch* Ships could be furniſhed with Proviſions, the whole Fleet ſhould proceed up the *Streights*: But the Admiral acquainted His Majeſty, "That he much "doubted the Truth of the Intelli- "gence; and obſerved withal, that if "ſome greater Strength was not put "into *Barcelona*, there would be no "great occaſion for the *French* to draw "their Naval Force thither, for that, "under its preſent Circumſtances, he "was of Opinion it could not ſup- "port it ſelf againſt a Four Day's Siege. However the Admiral endeavoured by all Ways to gain Intelligence of the Motion of the Enemy's Fleet, and that they might not have Accounts of his Proceedings at *Cadiz*, he ordered the Ships that rid fartheſt out in the Bay, to ſpeak with all Embarcations that ſhould either come in or go out, and

All Veſſels ſtopt in Cadiz Bay, to prevent Intelligence.

to

to detain thoſe bound Eaſtward, till ſuch time as it ſhould be conſidered whether it might be proper to let them proceed.

The 22d, a Council of War was called, in order to conſider how the Fleet might be beſt poſted to prevent the *French* paſſing the *Streights*, and it was Agreed, That ſo ſoon as the Wind came up Eaſterly, they ſhould repair off of Cape *Spartell*, and, with a Weſterly Wind, proceed up the *Streights*, and Anchor off of *Malaga*, but return to the Station off of Cape *Spartell* when the Wind came up Eaſterly, and ſeveral Ships were ſome days after ſent to Cruize off of the ſaid Cape, and along the *Barbary* Shore, Cape *St. Vincent*, and the Rock of *Lisbon*, with ſtrict Orders, That upon gaining any Intelligence of the *French* Fleet, they ſhould repair to *Cadiz* Bay with an Account thereof. *Reſolution where the Fleet might beſt lie to prevent the Enemy coming thro' the* Streights.

At this time there was but little proſpect of Service; nor indeed was the Fleet in any extraordinary Condition for it, the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* wanting very near 3000 Men of their allowed Number; for which reaſon the Admiral writ to *England* for a timely Supply, and deſired 2000 well-diſciplined Soldiers: And now he was informed by the *Spaniſh* Secretary, That the Peo- *A great Want of Men, and the Admiral writ home for a Supply, and* 2000 *Land-Soldiers.*

Groundleſs Fear of the Spaniards, That the French would attack us in Cadiz Bay.

ple of *Catalonia* were freed from their Apprehenſions of the *French* this Seaſon, but that he feared they would attack the Fleet in the Bay of *Cadiz*. To divert him from that melancholy and groundleſs Apprehenſion, the Admiral aſſured him, 'That he would ne-'ver have above two or three Ships 'diſarmed at one time, and that there-'fore the Enemy would have very 'good Fortune indeed to force him in 'that Harbour, unleſs their Numbers 'did much exceed his. He put him in mind, 'That his Catholick Ma-'jeſty had not above four Ships that 'were able to ſwim, and that if he in-'tended to join any Force to the *Eng-'liſh* and *Dutch* the next Spring, ſome 'better Care ought to be taken to put 'his Armada into a Condition for Ser-'vice.

Notwithſtanding it was concluded at a Council of War to put to Sea with the Fleet, yet ſince the Weather continued very violent till the 8th of *November*, with Rain, Thunder, and Lightning, it was then judged not fit to ſtir, eſpecially ſince there was no News of the *French* Fleet, and that in all probability they would not venture out, ſince the Winter Seaſon was ſo very far advanced: Wherefore it was determined

to

to make all poſſible Diſpatch, in putting each Ship into a Condition for Service againſt the Spring; a Task not very inconſiderable, conſidering the Number and Magnitude of the Ships, and the Want of ſeveral neceſſary Materials for the doing thereof: However the Work was vigorouſly carried on, and Care was not only taken to prevent a Surprize, but to be in a Condition of following the *French*, upon any Intelligence the Cruizers ſhould bring; for all the Ships, not ſent within the *Puntals* to clean, (which were but few at a time) were ordered to be in a conſtant Readineſs for Sea, the Firſt and Second Rates with not leſs than a Month's Water each, and thoſe inferiour to them, with ſix Weeks. *The Repairs of the Fleet gone vigorouſly in hand with.*

The King of *Spain* being in want of Shipping to tranſport about 7000 Men from *Italy* to *Barcelona*, deſired the Admiral that he would make Proviſion for that Service; but His Majeſty was acquainted, 'That tho' he would do 'his utmoſt to comply with his Com-'mands, in this and all other Things, 'yet it was impoſſible for him to find 'Convenience for the tranſporting of 'thoſe Troops, becauſe the Men of War 'were not able to receive them, and 'that it would not be ſafe, if they *King of Spain deſires the Admiral to tranſport 7000 Men for Italy to Barcelona. His Objections thereunto.*

'could take them in, conſidering the 'Sickneſs it might occaſion both to the 'Seamen and Soldiers, by their being 'peſtered: Beſides, the ſending a Squa- 'dron of Ships for tranſporting ſuch a 'Number of Men, would have wholly 'obſtructed the refitting of the Fleet; 'and therefore he propoſed to His Ma- 'jeſty, that a ſufficient Number of 'Tranſport Ships might be got ready 'at *Genoua*, which if His Majeſty ap- 'proved of, he promiſed to appoint a 'proper Convoy for them, ſince none 'of his own Ships were fit for ſuch a 'Service: But, even in this Caſe, he 'deſired that he might know the 'certain time when they would be 'ready to Embark, and that the De- 'ſign might be kept with all poſſible 'Secrecy; for that otherwiſe he could 'not well anſwer for their Security, 'ſince the *French* might, from their 'Neighbouring Ports, ſend out a Squa- 'dron to intercept them.

Promiſes a Convoy to the Tranſports.

Governor of Cadiz *propoſes the Tranſporting* 5000 *only.*

Notwithſtanding this, the Governor of *Cadiz* delivered him another Letter from the *Spaniſh* King, letting him know, That his Majeſty intended 5000 Men only ſhould be Tranſported from *Genoua* to *Savona*, and that care ſhould be taken for Embarcations for thoſe that were deſigned from *Naples*: But as for thoſe

thoſe 5000, his Majeſty recommended it to his Care, to ſee them Tranſported to *Barcelona* on board ſome Ships of the Fleet.

The Admiral diſcourſes him thereupon.

The Admiral had ſome Diſcourſe with the Governor of *Cadiz* on this Subject, who ſeemed throughly convinced, that theſe Troops could not be conveniently received on board the Men of War; but he did not think *Genoua* would be the moſt proper Place to hire Tranſports for them; whereupon the Admiral offered to aſſiſt in providing Veſſels at *Cadiz*, and promiſed, that he would have a Convoy ready for them, altho it would greatly obſtruct his Meaſures: He alſo aſſured him, That he would write to *England*, for the adding 2000 Land Soldiers to the Number already promiſed; and that his Catholick Majeſty might have a true Account of what paſſed, in relation to this Matter, he ſent it to him through the hands of his Secretary of State.

The latter end of *December*, 1694, ſeveral Ships arrived from *England*, and brought the Admiral a Commiſſion appointing him Admiral, Chief Commander, and Captain-General of their Majeſty's Navy, and Ships employed, and to be employed in the Narrow Seas, and in the *Mediterranean*. With this Convoy

Some Officers and Stores arrive at Cadiz.

Convoy arrived ſome Officers and Artificers, as well as Stores, for refitting the Fleet, though that Work was in a great Meaſure already performed.

Captain Killigrew *ſent up the* Streights *with a Light Squadron.*

The *Plimouth*, *Falmouth*, *Carliſle*, *Newcaſtle*, *Adventure*, and *Southampton*, were detached from the Fleet, under Command of Captain *James Killigrew*, who was directed to proceed as high as *Alicant*, in ſearch of ſome *French* Ships, ſaid to have been ſeen off of that Coaſt, but not hearing of them, to cruize ſix Days off of the South-end of *Sardinia*, unleſs the Captains with him ſhould think it proper to run off of Cape *Corſica*. When the ſix Days were expired he was to ſail to Cape *Paſſaro*, upon the Iſland of *Sicily*, and about that Iſland, or between that and *Malta*, to cruize till the 12th of *February*, for protecting the Trade, and annoying the *French*. When he had ſo done, he was ordered to call in at *Meſſina*, where if he found the *Turky* Convoy he was to accompany them to *Cadiz*; but if they were not arrived, to leave a Letter with the Conſul for the Commander in Chief of the ſaid Convoy, whereby he was directed (if Captain *Killigrew* ſhould be come away) to remain at *Meſſina* for the Security of the Ships, and to give early Advice to the Admiral of his arrival, unleſs

His Inſtructions.

unleſs he ſhould be throughly ſatisfy'd that the *French* had no force to intercept him in his paſſage to *Cadiz*; and Captain *Killigrew* was farther directed, if he came down the *Streights* without the ſaid Convoy, to call at *Leghorne* and *Barcelona*, and to bring from thence what Advice he could get of the Proceedings of the *French*. In the Execution of theſe Orders he met with two of the Enemy's Ships between Cape *Bona* and *Pontalarea*. He himſelf came firſt up with them, and in a little time his Foremaſt was ſhot away by one of them, called the *Content*, of 70 Guns, and the Ship had not been long engag'd e're he himſelf was killed. The *Falmouth* and *Adventure* fell to work with the other, called the *Trident*, of 60 Guns; but Captain *Norrice* of the *Carliſle*, the Sternmoſt of our Ships, fetch'd juſt to Leeward of the *Falmouth*, and to Windward of the *Plimouth*, and, after firing at the *Trident*, ſtood after the *Content* with all the Sail he could make, and took her after a Chaſe of 50 Leagues, and that her Mainmaſt, Mizen, and Mizen-top-maſt, were ſhot by the Board; and the other Ships took the *Trident*; ſo that this Action prevented their proceeding further on the Service they were appointed, and they

This Squadron meets with two French Ships of War, and takes them.

they brought their Prizes to the Fleet.

The Delatoriness of the Spaniards in fitting their Ships.

The Admiral finding that little or no Preparations were made for equipping thoſe few Ships the King of *Spain* had, he thought it neceſſary to repreſent the ſame to that Court; as alſo, That if they could not get their Tranſports ready ſo timely, as that the Convoy he deſigned to ſend with them might return by the latter end of *February*, it would not be ſafe for him to comply with what he had promiſed, as to that particular; for that the Enemy would in all probability have part of their Fleet at Sea, even where the Forces were to be Tranſported, and thereby ſubject the Ships of War, as well as the Forces, to the greateſt Hazard.

A Supply of Proviſions arrives from England

The 5th of *February*, 1694, a Supply of Proviſions arrived from *England*, and very ſeaſonably too, for there was not only a great want thereof in the Fleet, but ſuch Victuals as was proper could not be had without great difficulties in *Spain*.

Governor of Cadiz preſſes ſending the Convoy with Tranſports, and is told the Fleet would ſail in 14 Days, &c.

The Governor of *Cadiz* informed the Admiral, That the Tranſport Ships, he had been ſo long providing there, were ready to proceed to *Final* for the Soldiers, but was anſwered, That the time

pro-

propoſed for the Convoy's going with them was elapſed, and that ſince it was not known what forwardneſs the *French* were in at *Thoulon*, and that the whole Fleet would probably be ready to ſail in 14 Days, he thought it proper to conſider well of it, before he expoſed ſo many of the King his Maſter's Ships on this Service.

The 3d of *March*, the Governor writ him another Letter, earneſtly deſiring him to ſend away the Convoy; but the Admiral let him know, That ſince they were of neceſſity to paſs by the *French* Ports, it might be of worſe conſequence to *Catalonia*, ſhould the Convoy and Forces be intercepted in their Paſſage from *Final* to *Barcelona*, than the detaining the Ships ſome few days longer at *Cadiz*, in order to their going under the Protection of the whole Fleet; and that he was the rather enclined to have a more than ordinary regard to their Safety, ſince 'twas hinted at, both in the *French* and *Spaniſh* Prints, that he had promiſed to detach a Convoy from the Fleet.

The Hazard a ſeparate Squadron would be expoſed to

It was reaſonable to think that if the *French* did intend to paſs the *Streights*, with the whole or part of their Fleet, they would be now drawing down, and therefore the Admiral detached

Rear-Admiral Nevil *detached with a ſtrong Squadron to hinder the French getting thro' the* Streights.

detached a ſtrong Squadron off of Cape *Spartell*, under Command of Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, to intercept them, ſhould they make ſuch an Attempt; but he was nevertheleſs at liberty, as Winds and Weather might happen, to Anchor in *Tangier* Bay, or to lie Eaſtward of the *Streights* Mouth; and if he met not Orders to the contrary in 12 Days, he was to return to the Fleet in the Bay of *Cadiz*.

Soon after this the whole Fleet was ready to ſail, ſtaying only for the greateſt part of the Victuallers, which were not arrived from *England*: But as for the *Spaniſh* Armada, they were ſo far from being in a Condition for the Sea, that not ſo much as one of them was Careened, ſo that little Service was expected from them; but the Admiral acquainted the *Spaniſh* Secretary, That he had hopes their Galleys would be ready at *Baroelona*, becauſe if any Service could be done againſt the Enemy by Landing Men, they would be of great uſe, as alſo if he met the *French* Fleet, who doubtleſs would have theirs in Company with them.

The ill Condition of the Spaniſh *Armada.*

The Admiral deſires their Galleys may be ready.

The Governor of Cadiz *preſſes again the ſending a Convoy for the Forces.*

The Embarking of the Soldiers at *Final* did greatly trouble the *Spaniſh* Court, inſomuch that on the 8th of *April*, 1695, the Governor of *Cadiz* preſſed very earneſtly, that a Convoy might be forth-

forthwith ſent with the Tranſport Ships, to prevent Deſertion, and the ill Conſequences that might attend their not being Landed before the *French* opened the Campaign in *Catalonia*. The Admiral acquainted him, That he was not without Thoughts of all the Inconveniencies that might attend a Diſappointment of this nature, and that it did not a little trouble him they would not follow his Advice, in providing Tranſports for the Forces at the Ports in *Italy*; for that they had loſt very much time, by taking up at *Cadiz* ſuch Ships for this Service as, by Agreement, were firſt to be freighted at that Port: However he aſſured him, That with the firſt fair Weather he would proceed with the whole Fleet up the *Streights*, tho' he was in great want of Proviſions, but more eſpecially Bread. *The Admiral's Anſwer.*

Not many Days after, the Land Forces under Command of Brigadier General *Stewart* arrived, being his own Regiment, and thoſe of the Marquels *Puizar*, Colonel *Bruckenell*, and Colonel *Coote*, which were in all about 4500 Men, Officers included; and with the ſame Convoy came the Victuallers, and 12 Bomb-Veſſels, ſo that 'twas not many Days after before the Fleet ſailed; but ere the Admiral left *Cadiz*, he deſired *Brigadier General Stuart arrives with the Land Forces from* England. *The Fleet ſails from* Cadiz.

ſired the Protection and Favour of the Governor towards the King's Subjects Trading thither; and altho' I do in ſome meaſure know the reaſon of this Requeſt, yet it may not be convenient to ſay more of it here, than that there was occaſion to put him in mind of doing ſo good an Office.

Cruizers ſent out, and the Directions given them.

The Fleet being now at Sea, the Cruizers were ſent on ſeveral Stations for Intelligence; and if they met with any News of the Enemy from Foreigners, they were ordered to detain the chief Officer, till ſuch time as it could appear whether the ſame was true or falſe; for it had often been known that ſeveral of them had not been very ſincere, particularly the *Genoeze*, who in that, as well as many other Particulars, did not ſo behave themſelves as might have been reaſonably expected.

The Turky Convoy ordered to remain at Meſſina.

The 5th of *May*, 1695, Orders were ſent to the Commander of the *Turkey* Convoy at *Meſſina*, to remain there in a conſtant poſture of Sailing, till an Additional Strength could be ſent to him; and the Fleet arriving at *Alicant*, little ſtay was made there, for they came to *Barcelona* the 18th; but before they Anchored in the Bay, the Admiral ſent to the Marqueſs *Gaſtanaga*, deſiring him to communicate what Intelligence

The Fleet comes to Barcelona.

he

he had of the Enemy's Proceedings, that ſo he might the better govern himſelf in the appointing a Convoy for the Tranſport Ships; but to this he received no ſatisfactory Anſwer.

During the Fleet's being at *Barcelona*, the Admiral was well aſſured that ſeveral Subjects of *England* were compelled to ſerve the *French* King in *Catalonia*, and that they were deſirous to return to their own Country; wherefore he iſſued out ſeveral Declarations, promiſing them, or thoſe of other Nations, who would quit the *French* Service, and repair to the Conſul at *Barcelona*, that they ſhould either be entertained among our Land Forces, in the Marine Regiments, or in the Fleet, and that whenever any of them ſhould deſire to return home, they ſhould have a Paſſport: Beſides which, each Man, upon his appearing aboard the Admiral's own Ship, was promiſed Clothes and a Piſtole in Money; and this Project had in a great meaſure its deſired effect. *Invitation to ſeveral Engliſh, &c. in the French Army to come in to us.*

The 20th of *May*, 1695, in the Morning, the Admiral ſailed, and the next Day gave Orders to Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, That when he made a Signal by an *Engliſh* Enſign at his Fore-topmaſt-head, and fired a Gun, he ſhould make the beſt of his way to *Final*, with five Third Rates, *The Fleet ſails from Barcelona, and Rear-Admiral Nevil ſent to Final with the Tranſports.*

Rates, one Sixth, two Fireſhips, a Brigantine, and an Advice-boat of the *Engliſh*, and three Ships of War of the States General, of 72 Guns each. He was directed to take with him the Tranſport Ships, and to make all poſſible Diſpatch in getting the Soldiers on Board, and then to repair to the Rendezvous off the Iſles of *Aires*, but not finding the Fleet there, to proceed to *Barcelona*; and a Frigat was ſent off of Cape *Thoulon* for Intelligence of the Enemy's Proceedings.

The Admiral propoſes to the Court of Savoy, *the attempting* Thoulon *with their, and our Forces.*

By Rear-Admiral *Nevil* the Admiral ſent a Letter to the Earl of *Galloway*, by which he deſired his Lordſhip to let him know, Whether there was a probability of doing any Service with the Fleet at the *French* Ports, and particularly, whether with our Troops, and ſuch Strength as the Duke of *Savoy* could add to them, they, and the Fleet together, might not attempt even *Thoulon* it ſelf, with Hopes of Succeſs. This Letter was communicated to his Royal Highneſs, and the Marquels *Leganez*, and thereupon a Council was called, where it was determined, that nothing could be done in this Affair, for that they thought it reaſonable to adhere to their former Reſolutions againſt *Caſſal*, of which Place they ſoon after made themſelves Maſters.

His Royal Highneſs his Determination thereupon.

The

The Firſt of *June* Sir *David Mitchell*, then Rear-Admiral of the Red, was ordered to proceed off of *Marſellis*, when the Admiral made the appointed Signal, and to take with him one Third Rate, ſix Fourths, two Fifths, two Fireſhips, and two Brigantines, of the *Engliſh*, and three *Dutch* Ships, commanded by Vice-Admiral *Evertſen*. It was Recommended to him when he came off of the aforeſaid Port, carefully to obſerve the Fortifications ſaid to be erected there, and to report his Opinion, Whether there was any probability of doing Service with the Bomb-Veſſels: And Brigadier General *Stuart*, with the Colonels of the Land-Forces, were appointed to accompany the Rear-Admiral, as alſo Sir *Martin Beckman*, who had the Command of thoſe Veſſels: But the next Day a violent Storm aroſe, and drove the Fleet 50 Leagues Southward, under a main Courſe only, which made the Ships complain much of Leakineſs, and the Rear-Admiral was thereby forced from the Coaſt, and prevented in the putting his Orders in Execution.

Sir David Mitchell ſent with a Squadron off of Marſellis.

A violent Storm drives the Squadron 50 Leagues Southward.

The 7th of *June*, Orders were ſent to the *Turkey* Convoy to repair to *Gallary* in the Iſland of *Sardinia*, to be joined there by ſome more Ships for the greater Security of that Trade, for which

The Turkey Convoy ordered to Callary.

purpoſe the *Newcaſtle* and *Adventure* were ſent to that Port: And now the Tranſport Ships being come to the Fleet, they were diſpatched with a Convoy to *Barcelona*, and a Frigat was ſent to *Thoulon* to get an Account of the Enemy's Ships in that Harbour.

The Tranſports arrive, and are ſent to Barcelona.

Soon after the *Greyhound*, a nimble Frigat, was diſpatched with Advice to the *Conde de Atta Mia*, Vice-Roy of *Sardinia*, That the Fleet would ſuddenly touch there to take in Water; but the Admiral let him know, That it was of greateſt Conſequence to keep it a Secret, till ſuch time as he returned again to the *French* Coaſt, and therefore deſired, that a ſtrict Embargo might be laid, and continued, on all the Embarcations in every Port of the Iſland, till he ſhould be got to Sea again, that ſo the Enemy might not have an opportunity of ſlipping away Weſtward; but yet that this Embargo might be laid in ſuch manner, as to give the leaſt ground of Suſpition that the Fleet was coming thither.

The Admiral acquaints the Vice-Roy of Sardinia, *that the Fleet will come there to Water.*

The Fleet being ſupplied with Water, and the *Turkey* Ships not yet arrived, the Admiral judged it not convenient to ſtay longer for them, and therefore the *Greyhound* was left with a Letter for the Commander of the Convoy,

voy, directing him to proceed immediately to *Mayorke*, and if he met with no Intelligence of the Enemy, or Orders to the contrary there, to repair to and remain at *Carthagena* till further Order: But before the Fleet got clear of *Callary* this Convoy appeared, and inſtead of their Rendezvouſing at *Mayorke*, if ſeparated before they came to *Carthagena*, *Alfagnes* on the Coaſt of *Catalonia* was now appointed, and there they were to remain till farther Order.

The Turkey Convoy ordered to Alfagues *in* Catalonia.

The 19th of *July*, 1695, the Fleet arrived off of *Barcelona*, and the Admiral acquainted the Vice-Roy with his Deſign of going to *Thoulon*, but that if he found there could be nothing done there, or at *Marſelles*, or that the Duke of *Savoy* could not propoſe any Service now *Caſſal* was taken, he would return to *Barcelona*: But ſoon after he received a Letter from the Vice-Roy, deſiring that the whole, or part of the Fleet, might go off *Blanos*; upon which (notwithſtanding a Council of War had before thought it moſt for the Service of the Fleet to proceed to the Coaſt of *Provence*) the Admiral prepared to repair forthwith to that Place, but, before he ſailed, ordered the *Turkey* Convoy to *Cadiz*, and from thence

The Fleet arrives at Barcelona.

The Vice-roy deſires him to proceed to Blanos.

The Turkey Convoy ordered to Cadiz.

to *England* with ſome Ships appointed to ſtrengthen them there.

A Survey taken of the Condition of the Fleet, and the Admiralty acquainted therewith.

That the Lords of the Admiralty might be particularly informed of the State of the Fleet, with reſpect to their Hulls, &c, he cauſed a ſtrict Survey to be taken thereof, and repreſented to them, That the greateſt part of the Firſt, Second, and Third Rates, were in ſuch Condition as required their going to *England* the firſt Seaſon of fair Weather, but that the *Sovereign*, *St. Andrew*, *Duke*, *St. Michael*, *Sandwich*, *Suffolk*, *Grafton*, *Edgar*, *Warſpight*, and ſome other Ships, ought even at that time to be ſent home; for that ſhould they be continued at *Cadiz* another Winter, it was his Opinion they would hardly ſwim: For which Reaſon he aſſured them, That he would rather take his Fortune with a ſmall Strength, than hazard the Nation's loſing ſo many Ships; and without them there would remain with him but 44 *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, from the Fourth Rate upwards.

The Spaniſh General acquainted how long our Forces could continue on Shore.

The Admiral deſired Brigadier General *Stuart* to acquaint the General of the *Spaniſh* Battalia, That the Troops (which were about 3000 Men) could not be longer on Shoar than ſix or ſeven Days, that ſo the Vice-Roy might conſider how they could be moſt ſerviceable

viceable to him in that time for the regaining of *Palamos*: And that no Miſunderſtanding might ariſe about this Matter, he deſired that what paſs'd between them might be put down in Writing.

The Reaſon of the Admiral's ſtaying ſo long at Barcelona.

The Admiral was the more inclined to remain ſome little time longer at *Barcelona*, by reaſon that he was not in condition to face the Enemy now he had ſent ſo many Ships home, under Command of Sir *John Munden*, ſhould they, upon his Approach, come out of *Thoulon* with their whole Strength, till ſuch time as the *Dutch* Ships expected from *Cadiz*, part of their Quota, had joined him. Nor did he labour under ſmall Difficulties from the various Importunities of the *Spaniards*, and the little Regard they had to the doing what might be of Service to themſelves, or even to enable him to contribute towards it; inſomuch that he thought himſelf obliged to repreſent the Matter to the Court of *Spain*, and to let them know how little they had complied with their Promiſe to him, when at *Cadiz*, in aſſiſting him with their Ships of War and Galleys according to the Treaty: That he thought the King his Maſter had been very ill uſed, and the Affairs committed to his

A reaſonable Complaint made by the Admiral, of the little Aſſiſtance given by the Spaniards.

Truſt and Charge, very much obſtructed by their dilatory Proceedings. In fine, that having promiſed the Vice-Roy of *Catalonia* all the Aſſiſtance he could on any ſudden Enterprize, if no ſuch Thing could be undertaken, he ſhould be neceſſitated to take proper Meaſures for his Maſter's Intereſt, and to leave the Management of Matters in *Spain* to their own Conduct.

The Admiral did alſo acquaint the Vice-Roy, That ſince the Troops were included in the Numbers eſtabliſhed on the Ships, he could not, with Prudence, admit of their marching far into the Country, ſince their Return would be very uncertain, and that the Fleet would, for want of them, be expoſed to Hazard ſhould the *French* appear; but that if any Place could be attempted without the Formality of a long Siege, he would to his utmoſt aſſiſt in it.

The Vice-Roy determines to march towards Palamos.

Hereupon the Vice-Roy determined to march towards *Palamos*, deſigning to be ſo near that Place on the 7th of this Month, as that when the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Forces were on Shore, an Hour's March might enable them to join him; and, by their Aſſiſtance, he was in hopes to oblige the Forces in that Place to a ſpeedy Surrender. The Admiral communicated this to Brigadier Gene-

General *Stewart*, and it being agreed in what manner the Forces ſhould be put on Shore, the neceſſary Care was taken to furniſh them with Proviſions, and all Things neceſſary, and a conſiderable Number of Marine Soldiers were incorporated with them. It was agreed between the Vice-Roy and the Brigadier General, that the Forces ſhould be landed the 9th in the Morning, and that he ſhould follow the Orders of the ſaid Vice-Roy, or any other Superiour Officer, according to the Diſcipline of War.

All the Long-Boats in the Fleet were ordered to be got ready, with a Lieutenant, and two Gunners Mates to each, to attend Sir *Martin Beckman* upon the firſt Signal that ſhould be made for Bombarding *Palamos*; and the Admiral did not only Recommend it to the Vice-Roy to give the Brigadier General the Poſt due to him on all Occaſions, but deſired alſo that the Soldiers might be in readineſs to Embark, upon a Signal of the Enemy's approaching with a Naval Force.

It is agreed to put the Land-Forces on Shore from the Fleet.

The Admiral received from the Brigadier General frequent Accounts of his Movements, from the time he Landed, and thereupon he let the Vice-King know his Opinion, That ſince the

The Admiral's Opinion about attacking Palamos.

the Enemy appeared in Battalia, it was to prevent his laying Siege to the Town, and that therefore if his Troops, with the Reinforcement from the Fleet, were not ſufficient both to attack the Town, and to face the Enemy, there was but ſmall Hopes of carrying the Place, inſomuch that it was moſt Adviſeable for the *Spaniſh* Forces to march off to their former Poſts, whilſt he, with the Bomb-Veſſels, endeavoured to lay the Town in Aſhes.

An Account of the Proceedings of our Forces in conjunction with the Spaniards.

Altho' the Buſineſs of the two Armies does not properly relate to the Deſign in hand, yet it is poſſible the Reader may expect ſome farther Account of that Matter, ſince it is already mentioned; and therefore pleaſe to take it as follows, *viz.*

On *Friday* the 9th of *Auguſt*, 1695, there was landed near 4000 Men, *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, the firſt commanded by Brigadier General *Stewart*, and the others by Count *Naſſau*, and by Nine in the Morning they marched, and encamped at Night half way between the Landing-place and *Palamos*. At this time there was no other Account of the Enemy, than that they were at a Place called *Briſball*, about 3 Leagues from our Forces; but the next Morning

ning when our Men, who had the Van of the Army, marched out of the narrow Ways into a D'fillé; the *French* appeared in great Numbers, eſpecially Horſe: Notwithſtanding which our Men marched on, and poſſeſſed the Ground deſigned for them near the Town, and then the whole Encamped, as well as any Army could that had not any one material Thing neceſſary for it.

The next Morning the Enemy appeared in Battalia upon the Hills about a League off, and (as the Deſerters ſaid) were reſolved to give Battel, ſo that all this Day, and the Night too, the Army lay under their Arms, and our Men not only without Tents, but even the Bread which the *Spaniards* had promiſed to provide for them: But ſo little Care had they taken of This, or indeed of any Thing to ſecure themſelves, that had not our People carried on Shore ſome Pole-Axes, Spades, and other Conveniencies, no Intrenchments could have been made.

Early the next Day the *French* appeared drawn up within half an Hour's march; but after advancing about 200 Yards, they wheeled off; and this gave our People the firſt Opportunity of reſt ſince their Landing.

The

The Town and Caſtle of Palamos Bombarded.

The Admiral now gave Orders for Bombing the Town and Caſtle, which was done ſo effectually, notwithſtanding the Sea ran high, that moſt part both of one and t'other was beaten down, and the remainder was on fire in ſeveral Places: And thus ended the Attempt on *Palamos*; for the Veſſel which was ſent to the Coaſt of *Provence*, return'd to the Fleet the next Day, and brought two of the Inhabitants of *Thoulon*, who poſitively affirmed, That the *French* had 60 Ships of War, ready in all reſpects to put to Sea, and thereupon the Admiral ſent to the Marquis *Gaſtanaga*, and deſired the Men might be returned, the better to enable him to go in ſearch of the Enemy, adviſing him not only to march away at the ſame time with the *Spaniſh* Army, but repreſenting to him how improbable it was for him to take *Palamos*, ſince our Forces and theirs joined, were but equal to the Enemy, and barely ſo too. The Vice-Roy was of the Admiral's Opinion, but all or moſt of his General Officers were for ſetting down before the Town; and ſuch was their uneaſineſs, that ſome of them could not refrain letting ſome words fall to the Prince of *Heſſe*, who commanded the Emperor's Forces, which beſpoke in them

The Admiral adviſes the Spaniſh General to retire with his Forces.

them no ill liking to the Intereſt of the *French*: However, within two days their Army decamped, and marched to *St. Feluç*, from whence they deſigned for *Oſtalreake*; and our Troops with thoſe of the States General, returned on board the Fleet, very little obliged by the *Spaniſh* Officers; for during the whole time they were on Shore, hardly one of them had an Invitation to partake of their Meat or Drink.

He accordingly retires.

The Forces were no ſooner embark'd but the Fleet proceeded to the Coaſt of *Provence*, where they met with ſuch violent Storms, accompany'd with Rain, Thunder and Lightning, as render'd a Continuance very hazardous, and therefore the Admiral thought it adviſeable to retire down the *Streights*, and arriving in *Cadiz* Bay, the latter end of *September*, he appointed Sir *David Mitchell*, then Rear-Admiral of the Red, to take upon him the Command of 8 Third Rates, as many Fourths, beſides ſmall Frigats, Bomb-Veſſels, and others of the *Engliſh*, and 7 *Dutch* Men of War from 74 to 50 Guns, and to employ all, or part of them, in ſuch manner as he judged moſt for the Service, but to put himſelf under the Command of Sir *George Rooke* when he arrived, who was coming with a Squadron of Ships from *England*.

The Forces being embarked the Fleet ſails towards the Coaſt of Provence, but bad Weather obliges them to retire.

The Fleet arrives at Cadiz.

Sir Dav. Mitchell left with a Squadron at Cadiz.

With

The Admiral ſails for England with the beſt part of the Fleet.

With the reſt of the Fleet the Admiral himſelf ſailed for *England*, being one Firſt Rate, ſeven Seconds, one Third, three Fourths, one Fifth, and three Fireſhips, beſides *Dutch*, and arrived the beginning of *November*.

Unkindneſs of the Spaniards as to our Sick Men.

I cannot but take notice here of the Unkindneſs of the *Spaniards* at *Cadiz*; for Rear-Admiral *Mitchell* applying to the Governor that the Sick Men might be put on Shore into the Marine Hoſpitals, was anſwered, That it could not be admitted without an Order from Court, in regard they had expended much Money the laſt Year on that Account. A very grateful Acknowledgment for the Charge the *Engliſh* Nation, as well as *Holland*, had been at on their ſcorce: not but that (as I am inform'd) they did, by ſeveral Subſidies, enable the *Dutch* to bear, at leaſt, part of their Expence; but as for the *Engliſh*, they had not one Peny, more than a certain quantity of Wine and Proviſions, and that of no Extraordinary Value, which was equally diſtributed to each Ship ſo ſoon as it arrived in the Fleet.

Sir Geo. Rooke arrives at Cadiz *from* England

The 16th of *October*, 1695, Sir *George Rooke* with the Ships from *England* was diſcovered, who, in 38 Days made his Paſſage to the Bay of *Cadiz*. The Cha-

racter

racter given him by his Commiſſion was Admiral of the White, and Admiral and Commander in Chief of His Majeſty's Ships in the *Mediterraneun*; and by his Inſtructions he was required to annoy the Enemy on all Occaſions; To prevent their being furniſhed from theſe Seas with Naval Stores and Proviſions; To take under his Command the Ships of War left at *Cadiz* by Admiral *Ruſſell*; and if he received certain Advice that the *French* had paſſed the *Streights*, with the whole or part of their Fleet, to follow them, or detach after them ſuch a Strengthas might be proportionable to their's. *Contents of his Inſtructions.*

The 21ſt of *November*, 1695, he called a Council of War, where was preſent himſelf, Rear-Admiral *Mitchell*, Rear-Admiral *Nevil*, and his Firſt Captain, Captain *Bokenham*. They conſider'd how the Ships bound to *Turkey* might moſt properly be convoy'd thither, and determined that their Guard ſhould conſiſt of four Ships of War, two for *Smirna* and two for *Scanderoon*, and that they ſhould be accompanied with a Squadron of four or five more, and two Fireſhips, as far as Cape *Metapan*, or higher, if it ſhould be judg'd reaſonable: That then the Squadron ſhould return, and in their way touch *A Council of War agree how to ſend up the Turkey Convoy.*

at

at *Algiers*, after that croſs over to *Alicant*, and ſo along the Coaſt of *Spain*, unleſs they had Advice that the *French* had a ſtronger Force abroad.

The Fleet very Sickly. The Fleet at this time was very Sickly, and with great difficulty the *Spaniards* were at laſt prevailed with to permit 150 Men to be lodg'd in the Hoſpitals at *Cadiz*; nor was that granted, but upon Condition that we ſhould find Beds, Medicines, and Refreſhments.

We had not force to oppoſe the Enemy. Our Force united was not ſufficient to oppoſe the Enemy, and therefore all that the Admiral could do was to protect the Trade, till ſuch time as the additional Strength expected from *England* joined him; and he was convinced by all Advices, that the *French* were making great diſpatch for an early Campaigne; for which reaſon he called the Flag Officers together, to conſider what might beſt be done, who (both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*) agreed, That ſince there was but 30 Ships of the Line of Battel (not above half the Number 'twas believed the *French* would come out with) they could not be able to impede their paſſage through the *Streights*, and therefore not reaſonable to put to Sea and lie in their way; but nevertheleſs to keep out Cruizers for Intelligence.

A Council of War agree not to put to Sea.

This

This Council of War was held the 19th of *January*, 1695, and freſh Intelligence occaſion'd another the 23d following, who found no reaſon to alter their Reſolutions: But leſt the *French* Fleet ſhould appear at *Cadiz* before the Reinforcement from *England* arrived, it was agreed, That the Ships ſhould be removed within *Pontall* Caſtles, and be formed within three Lines as follows; The Firſt (to conſiſt of the largeſt *Engliſh* Ships) to lie from *Pontall*, athwart the Chanel, to the Creek's Mouth called *Truckadero*, next within the *North* Caſtle: The Second (to be compoſed of the ſmalleſt *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships) along the Shoal on the South ſide of the Harbour: And the Third (to be of the biggeſt *Dutch* Ships) to begin from the upper end of the Second Line, and to tend away athwart the Chanel to the Mouth of the upper Creek that goes to *Port Real*; and the ſmall Frigats, Bomb-Veſſels, and Fire-ſhips, were to be poſted to the beſt Advantage, as the Wind, and circumſtances of Service ſhould preſent. This indeed was all that could be done under their then Circumſtances; for the Ships, generally ſpeaking, were not above half Mann'd, and thoſe of the *Dutch* were ſo very foul, that had they met

Another Council reſolve to retire within Pontall *Caſtles for their Security.*

met the Enemy at Sea, and been overpower'd, they would in all probability have been a Prey to them.

Things being at this paſs, and our Fleet in a manner block'd up at *Cadiz*, an Account comes from the Vice-Roy of *Andaluſia*, That he had notice by Expreſs from *Portugal*, of five *French* Ships in *Lagos* Bay, from 76 to 80 Guns; and thereupon Rear-Admiral *Mitchell*, with eight clean Ships, and two Fireſhips, was ſent in queſt of them, but meeting contrary Winds he was ſoon conſtrain'd to bear up.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell ſent to Lagos Bay in ſearch of ſome French Ships.

The Admiral conſidering the weakneſs of the Force with him, and how ſtrong the Enemy did intend to come forth, did, about the middle of *February*, ſend home a Frigat for Inſtructions how he ſhould proceed: But before ſhe returned he received Orders from His Majeſty, dated the 27th of *January*, 1695, to repair to *England*, unleſs he had good Intelligence that the *French* did not deſign to fit out their Fleet from *Thoulon* early in the Spring, or that they did intend to ſet out with no greater a Number than he could be able to oppoſe, with the Strength he had with him; in which caſe he was to remain in the *Streights*, and to follow his former Inſtructions.

The Admiral receives Orders to come for England conditionally.

Theſe

These Orders occasioned a Council of War, but it was determined to repair to *England*, so soon as the Naval Stores could be taken on board: And in case the *French* passed the *Streights* before that could be effected, it was agreed to follow them immediately, and to leave a proper Convoy to bring home the Storeships. But to amuse the *French*, it was pretended that the Fleet, and the greatest part of the Stores, was removed to Port *Mahone*, though it was impossible to keep our real Intention long private; for several Letters there were which gave an Account, that the Ships designed from *England* were stopp'd, and that it was expected our Fleet would be called home: Nor was it indeed advisable to continue longer in those Parts, for if the intended Re-inforcement had timely arrived, our Strength would, even then, have been very much inferior to that of the Enemy.

A Coun. of War resolves thereupon to come home, but to pretend they were going to Port Mahone.

About the middle of *March* Sir *George* put to Sea; but when he had beat it to and fro five Days, in very dirty Weather, wherein several Masts were sprung, Sails blown away, and the great Ships much shaken, he was constrain'd to return to *Cadiz*; and very lucky it was he did so, for had he kept the Sea, the tempestuous Weather, which soon af-

The Fleet forced back to Cadiz.

ter happened, might have expoſed the Fleet to greateſt hazard. It begun and continued with ſuch Extremity, that ſeveral of the biggeſt *Dutch* Ships, and of our *Engliſh* Merchant Ships, were forced from their Anchors, even in the Bay; ſeveral Ships were loſt upon the Coaſt, among which were three belonging to the States General, one of them named the *St. Peter*, of 44 Guns, between *Cadiz* and Cape *Traflegar*.

Damages ſuffered by the Storm.

But the Weather was no ſooner moderate, than he ſailed again from *Cadiz*, and arrived in the *Engliſh* Chanel the 22d of *April*, 1696; where I ſhall leave him, till ſuch time as I have given ſome Account of what paſs'd at Home, and in other parts Abroad, from the time that Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* had finiſhed his Expedition againſt *Diepe*, *Calais*, and other of the Enemy's Ports, to this of Sir *George Rooke*'s returning to *England*; believing that it would tend more to the Reader's Satisfaction, to have the aforegoing Account of Affairs in the *Streights* entire, becauſe its interfering with other Things that happened elſewhere, within that time, might make a Confuſion, neceſſary to be avoided.

The Fleet arrives in England.

There

There being a conſiderable Number of Ships got together at *Spithead*, the Lord *Berkeley* was ordered thither to take the Command of them, and arriving there the middle of *June*, his Lordſhip called a Council of War, who agreed to attempt *St. Malo*'s, if Pilots could be had to carry the Ships near the *Quince* Rock, and the Frigots and Bomb-Veſſels within it. But to render this Undertaking the more ſucceſsful, there were wanting ſmall Frigats to ſecure the Bomb-Veſſels, and 4 or 500 Soldiers, to put on board them and the Well-Boats; and if two Machines Veſſels could be had, it was thought they might have been ſerviceable againſt the *Quince* Rock, if there was a poſſibility of doing good with them any where.

Lord Berkley ſent to Command at Spithead.

A Council of War agree to attempt St. Malo.

Although the Council of War had no extraordinary proſpect of Succeſs againſt *St. Malo*, yet they pitch'd upon that Attempt firſt, believing that the very Allarm might oblige the Enemy to make ſuch Preparations, as would put them to no ſmall Expence and Inconvenience: But yet they were of Opinion, That if the *French* ſhould find them imbayed at *St. Malo* with a greater Force, it would infinitely expoſe them; and therefore, ſince there were not together above ſix *Engliſh* Ships of

the Line of Battel, they deſired that other of the great Ships might be forthwith ſent to the *Downes* to join them.

Soon after this, Admiral *Almonde* acquainted the Lord *Berkeley*, That tho he had Orders to act under his Command, and to attempt what Places ſhould be judged reaſonable by a Council of War, yet the King had given him poſitive Orders, to try what might be done at *Dunkirk* firſt. This was communicated to the Lords of the Admiralty, and by them to the Lords Juſtices, in His Majeſty's abſence, by whoſe Command another Council of War was called, to conſider whether the ſeparate Attempts deſigned to be made on *St. Malo* and *Dunkirk*, might not be undertaken at the ſame time, by the Means of ſuch mutual Aſſiſtance as the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* could give each other: And according to what ſhould be determined his Lordſhip was to act. It was hereupon reſolved to attempt *St. Malo's*; for as to *Dunkirk*, it was not thought convenient to do any thing there, till the Machines, and other things preparing by Mr. *Meeſters*, were ready; and the *Dutch* would not hear of acting ſeparately.

The Dutch Admiral ordered by the King to attempt Dunkirk firſt.

The ſeparate Attempts of Dunkirk and St. Malo conſider'd.

Agreed to Attempt St. Malo.

Although

Although his Lordſhip had but one ſmall Frigat of the *Engliſh* with him (which Ships were more neceſſary on ſuch Occaſions than bigger) he was unwilling to loſe time, and therefore ſailed, and got Weſtward of *Portland* the 23d of *June*; but meeting with bad Weather, he was obliged to return to *St. Hellens*, and the Well-boats (appointed for landing Men) were ſo very leaky, that 'twas with much difficulty they were brought in.

The Squadron arrived at St. Malo.

However, the Squadron arrived before *St. Malo*, and anchored on the 4th of *July*, about 10 in the Morning, in 20 Fathom Water, the *Quince* Rock bearing S.E. by S, near five Miles diſtant, and Cape *Farrel* W. S. W, three Leagues and a half, and *Concall* Point E. by S, three Leagues. At Noon the Signal was made for the Captains of the Bomb-Veſſels, and about two Hours after the Frigats, Bombs, and Well-Boats, under Command of Captain *Bembow*, together with ſome Frigats and Bombs of the *Dutch*, ſtood cloſe in, and five of the Bomb-Veſſels play'd on the *Quince* Rock till near Eight, but with little Succeſs.

About Four the next Morning the Squadron weighed, and ſtood nearer in, and a Signal was made for the Frigats

and Bomb-Veſſels to go as cloſe in towards the Town, as 'twas poſſible; by doing whereof they ſoon obliged the Galleys and Guard-Boats to retreat. At half an Hour paſt Five the Squadron anchored in 18 fathom Water, the *Quince* Rock bearing S. by E. diſtant about a League; and at Eight the *Charles* Fireſhip, Commanded by Captain *Durley*, and one of the *Dutch*, were order'd to run in againſt the aforeſaid Rock, and placing themſelves to Windward of it, they ſo much annoyed the Enemy, that they forbore firing; and immediately upon the blowing up of thoſe Ships, the Fort took fire, and burnt two Hours. About Nine a Clock the Squadron and Bomb-Veſſels got in ſomewhat nearer, and the latter play'd with that Succeſs, that at Four in the Afternoon a great Fire broke out in the Weſt part of the Town, which burnt very furiouſly till about Seven at Night; and as it may be modeſtly computed that 900 Bombs and Carcaſſes were thrown into it, ſo will I not trouble the Reader with the Expence, not only of the Bombs themſelves, but the Veſſels alſo wherein the Mortars were plac'd, any otherwiſe, than by taking notice it was very conſiderable.

The Attempt on, and Bombing St. Malo.

During

During the whole time of this Action, the *French* fired from the *Quince* Rock, the Great and Little *Bee*, Fort *Royal*, and Point *D'ambour*; and at laſt the Ammunition which the Bomb-Veſſels carried in with them being ſpent, a Signal was made, between 7 and 8 at Night, to call them off, and one of them, which had received much damage, was ſunk, to prevent her falling into the Enemy's hands: But before I end my Account of this Attempt, ſuffer me to inform you, in what manner the Council of War had determined the Place ſhould be attack'd; which was as follows;

1. That the ſix *Dutch* Bomb-Veſſels, and three *Engliſh*, ſhould batter the *Quince* Rock, and the Fort called *D'ambour*, five whereof were to attack the former, and four the other.
2. The other Nine Bomb-Veſſels were, at the ſame time, to batter the Town, and to be ſupported by ſeveral *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Frigats, and other ſmall Veſſels: And ſo many Boats as could be ſpared, were to go in with ſmall Anchors and Hawſers, to tow the Bomb-Veſſels and Frigats, if there ſhould be occaſion.

3. Two

3. Two *Dutch* Ships were to cruize W. N. W. of the Squadron, or off of Cape *Farrell*, and all the reſt to lie as near as conveniently they could.

In the next place it was reſolved to proceed to *Granville*, with eight Frigats and as many Bomb-Veſſels, and that the Squadron ſhould ſtay at St. *Malo* a Day or two, and then repair to, and remain at *Guernſey*. They met not with much difficulty in deſtroying that Place, (which was a fair large Town) even without the loſs of a Man, and joining the Squadron on the 9th, a Feint was made of going to *Havre de Grace*, thereby to amuſe the Enemy; but in the Evening they bore away for *Portſmouth*, to fit the Bomb-Veſſels, and get all Things ready to attack *Dunkirk*.

The Town of Granville *deſtroy'd.*

A Feint made of going to Havre deGrace.

His Lordſhip propoſed to the Lords of the Admiralty, That the great Ships at *Spithead* might accompany him, becauſe the Seaſon of the Year was very proper, and that the Draught of Water between them and the Ships he had with him, was not above a Foot difference; beſides their Countenance was neceſſary, and their Boats would have afforded conſiderable Aſſiſtance.

The

The Squadron being come to the *Downes*, his Lordſhip received Orders there to take on Board 400 Land-Soldiers; but neither Mr. *Meeſters* nor his Pilots were then to be found. Soon after he came, and a Council of War being held, where he was preſent, it was reſolved to attempt *Dunkirk* in the manner following, *viz.* *The Squadron arrives in the Downes.*

1. To begin with Bombarding the *Riſe Bank*, and Wooden Forts, with 6 or 8 Bomb-Veſſels, which were to ceaſe firing, ſo ſoon as the Frigats and Machines came near the Forts. *The Manner agreed on to attempt Dunkirk.*
2. Four *Engliſh* Frigats were firſt to go in, with *Dutch* Pilots, and to carry on two Fireſhips, and two Machines, to be laid againſt the Wooden Forts: And theſe were to be ſupported by four Ships of the States General, of about 50 Guns each, which were to Anchor againſt the ſaid Forts, and batter them; and three ſmall *Dutch* Frigats, one *Engliſh* Brigantine, and an Advice-Boat, were to go near in, with the Fireſhips and Machines, in order to take up their Boats, when the Men had ſet them on fire.

3. At

3. At the ſame time two *Engliſh* Frigats, two Ketches, and two Fireſhips, were to be ſent on the back of the *Brake*, to diſperſe the Enemy's ſmall Craft; and two Machines, and two Fireſhips, to burn againſt the *Riſe Bank*, with a Brigantine, and four Well-Boats to bring off their Boats.
4. Two Fireſhips and two Machines were to be ready for a Second Attack upon the Weſtern Wooden Fort, (if the Firſt ſhould fail) to be ſupported by an *Engliſh* Frigat, two Men of War Pinks, and a Ketch: And the reſt of the *Dutch* Frigats were to lie at Anchor Weſtward of the *Brake*, ready for any Service.
5. All the great Ships were to lie off of *Gravelin*; for it was the Opinion of the Pilots, That no Ships, which drew above 15 or 16 Foot Water could go out at the Eaſtern Paſſage with any Safety.

And now Mr. *Meeſters* informing the Council of War, that he had every thing ready, it was reſolved to ſail the next Morning, as they did: But it blowing freſh, the ſmall Craft were diſperſed; however the Squadron continued

tinued on the *French* Coaſt, and Orders were ſent to thoſe that were abſent to repair to the Rendezvous, which was *Gravelin* Pits, and Mr. *Meeſters* was particularly ſummoned thither, who had thought fit to retire to the *Downes*; but he repreſented it to be dangerous on the *French* Coaſt with a N.W. Wind; however poſitive Orders being ſent to him to join the Squadron, he took Courage, and did the ſame the 29th of *July*, 1696, and then, the Weather being fair, it was determined to make the Attack the next Day, or ſo ſoon as 'twas poſſible: So that on the Firſt of *Auguſt*, early in the Morning, the Bomb-Veſſels got under Sail, and ſtood in to Bombard the Wooden Forts and the *Riſe Bank*. About Nine they were all placed, and began to throw their Bombs very briskly, and the Frigats at the ſame time went in to protect them from the Enemy's ſmall Craft, of which they had great Numbers, and many of their Half Gallies and Boats came out of the Pier Heads, and lay under the Cannon of the *Riſe Bank*. About One a Clock the Frigats, Brigantines, Well-Boats, *&c.* that were appointed to go in with the Fireſhips and Machines, to burn upon the Pier Heads, and *Riſe Bank*, and to take up their Boats, weighed and went

The Attack begun at Dunkirk.

pretty

pretty near in, plying to and fro within Shot of the Enemy's Forts and Gallies; and about Two a Clock there was ſent in four Smoak-Ships, to be burnt againſt the Forts, and blind them: But they had no manner of Succeſs; for one ran on Ground, and the others were ſet on Fire long before they came to the Forts: Beſides, their Smoak was ſo inconſiderable, that had they been carried nearer, it could not have much incommoded the Enemy.

Mr. Meeſters's Smoak-Ships unſucceſsful, and indeed of no uſe.

The Bomb-Veſſels fired till Five, at which time both they, the Frigats, Brigantines, *&c.* were ordered off. Several of the Shells fell into the *Riſe Bank*, and upon the Pier Heads, and three of the Enemy's Half Gallies were ſunk: But they had in all Places made ſuch great Preparations for their Defence, with Boats, Bombs, Chains, Piles, and Puntons with Guns upon them, as rendred this Attempt altogether impracticable.

In this manner ended an Expedition, that for ſome Years paſt had been deſigned againſt this important Port: And conſidering the ill Succeſs, and that the Simple Machines (as Mr. *Meeſters* acknowledged) would be of little uſe without Smoak-Ships, (as indeed none of them could have been, either ſingle

or

or together) a Council of War reſolved to ſail for *Calais*, where, at another Conſultation, it was agreed, That ſince Mr. *Meeſters* had thought fit to retire with all his Machines the Night before, nothing ſhould be attempted till he returned purſuant to the Orders that were ſent him, but that when they arrived, all the Boats, and the ſmall Frigats, ſhould be ſent in to ſupport them, which Boats were to be commanded by a Captain of each Nation, and the *Engliſh* to go Weſtward, and the *Dutch* Eaſtward of the Veſſels that were to burn, or blow up, againſt the Fort: But Mr. *Meeſters* declining this Second Attempt, the whole Affair ended, tho' it afterwards occaſioned ſome Examinations before the Council, upon Complaints exhibited againſt him by my Lord *Berkeley*, and by Mr. *Meeſters*, againſt the Conduct of the Sea-Officers.

A Council of War reſolve to ſail to Calais.

Mr. Meeſters *declined a Second Attempt with his Machines,* &c.

Not long after, according to what was agreed at a Council of War, an Attempt was made on *Calais* in the manner following: There was a new Wooden Fort at the entrance of the Pier Heads, with 14 heavy Cannon, and ſeveral other Batteries, to the Weſt, which were great Obſtacles to the Undertaking; wherefore it was reſolved to attack, and endeavour to burn, the ſaid Wooden

The Manner of our Attacking Calais.

Wooden Fort in the Night; for which purpoſe Colonel *Richards* was not only ordered to fill up two Well-Boats with the Materials of the Blaze Fireſhip, but a formal Attack was deſigned with the Boats, and then Colonel *Richards* was to begin the Bombardment of the Town. Accidents prevented the putting this in Execution till the 17th in the Morning, when Anchoring Eaſtward of the Town, the Bombardment began, and with ſuch good Succeſs, that 'twas on Fire in ſeveral Places by One a Clock, at which time the Enemy's Half Gallies came out, and ſtood Eaſtward under the Shoar, thinking thereby to annoy the Line of Bomb-Veſſels; but the ſmall Ships of War, and Brigantines, ſtanding in, put them in ſo great confuſion, that with much ado they regained the Pier Heads; and after this they gave us no other Diſturbance, than with their Cannon and Mortars from their ſeveral Works. The Bombardment continued till Five at Night, in which time was fired, from the *Engliſh* Veſſels, about 600 Shells; and in the whole Action our Loſs was very inconſiderable.

It

It now follows, that I relate what paſs'd in the *Weſt-Indies* under Command of Captain *Robert Wilmot*, who was appointed Commander in Chief of a Squadron of Ships, which was compoſed of one Third Rate, three Fourths, one Fifth, and two Fireſhips, and received Orders the 14th of *January*, 1694, to proceed from *Plimouth*, with 12 Storeſhips appointed to tranſport Soldiers, Stores and Proviſions, and to make the beſt of his way towards *America*, where he was to take under his Command two Fourth Rates, and a Fifth.

Captain Wilmot appointed Commander in Chief of a Squadron going to the Weſt Indies.

It was thought neceſſary to keep the Service private on which he was deſigned, even to himſelf, till ſuch time as he got out to Sea, and therefore the General Inſtructions, by which he was to govern himſelf in the *Weſt-Indies*, were ſealed up, with poſitive Orders to him not to open them, till ſuch time as he came into the Latitude of 40 Degrees, and then to do it in the preſence of the Commander in Chief of the Land-Forces.

The General Inſtructions not open'd till the Squadron came to Sea.

By the ſaid Inſtructions he was directed,

Contents of the said General Instructions.

1. TO ſail to *Jamaica*.
2. To conſider with the Governor of that Iſland, and a Council of War, what might be done againſt the Enemy; and if he ſhould think it fit, he was ordered to proceed to *Petit Guavas*, or the Coaſt of *Hiſpaniola*, according to ſuch Informations as could be got of the Poſture of the Enemy, and to take with him ſuch of the Land-Soldiers, and of the Militia of *Jamaica*, as the Governor ſhould appoint.
3. To order ſome of his Squadron to cruize off of *Petit Guavas*, and by all other Ways to intercept Supplies to the *French* from *Europe*, or any of the Windward Iſlands.
4. Upon landing the Troops at *Petit Guavas*, or on the Coaſt of *Hiſpaniola*, (if it ſhould be thought proper to do the ſame at a Council of War) he was to uſe his utmoſt Endeavours to reduce to Their Majeſties Obedience the Forts, *&c.* belonging to the *French*, and to deſtroy their Sugar Works, Engines, and Plantations.
5. If *Petit Guavas* could be taken by our Forces, he was to diſpoſe Matters ſo with his Squadron, as that Poſſeſſion might be kept of it.

6. To

6. To give notice to the Commander in Chief of the Iſland of *Hiſpaniola*, or City of *St. Domingo*, of his Arrival near that Coaſt, and to deſire his Aſſiſtance, by Shipping, and the Conjunction of the Forces or Militia there, for deſtroying the Enemy on that and the adjacent Iſlands; to which end the ſaid Governor had received Inſtructions from the King of *Spain* his Maſter.
7. But in caſe, by the readineſs of the Preparations at *Hiſpaniola*, or Advices from the Governor of *Jamaica*, it ſhould be judged Adviſeable at a Council of War, to attack the *French* before his going to *Jamaica*, he was to do it.
8. If he gain'd Intelligence at his coming to *Jamaica*, or before his Arrival there, that the *French* were poſſeſſed of that Iſland, he was to endeavour to recover it, either by a Diverſion, or otherwiſe, as a Council of War ſhould judge moſt proper.
9. To hold Councils of War as oft as there ſhould be occaſion, to conſiſt of the Lieutenant Governor of *Jamaica*, himſelf, the reſt of the Sea Captains, and of the Colonel, Major, and Captains of the Regiment, when th ſe

Perſons ſhould be on the Place: And the Governor was to preſide, if preſent, otherwiſe himſelf; and in his Abſence, and that of the Governors of *Jamaica*, the Colonel, or Commander in Chief of the Regiment.

10. If the Councils of War were held at *Jamaica*, there was to be added thereunto the Chief Officers of the Militia, not exceeding Six; but yet in no other caſe, than when the Matters to be debated ſhould relate to the Defence of the Iſland. But the Governor was not to meddle with the Diſcipline of the Squadron; nor was the Commadore to ſend any of the Ships to Cruize remote from the Iſland, without the Conſent of the Governor and Council, if it might be conveniently had.

11. The Spoil His Majeſty gave between Himſelf, the Officers, Seamen, Soldiers, and Militia, except Guns, Ammunition, and Naval Stores, according to the Diſtribution which will be hereafter expreſſed.

12. After he had done his utmoſt to Annoy the Enemy, and for Security of the Iſland, and that he had ſtay'd thereabouts two or three Months, and no longer, unleſs a Council of War judged it abſolutely neceſſary for

for ſome Eſpecial Service, he was to return to *England*, and to leave five Fourth Rates, and one of the Sixth, for the Guard of the Iſland: But in his Paſſage (if the Seaſon of the Year was not too far advanced) he was to ſail to the *French* Parts of *Newfoundland*, and endeavour to deſtroy their's, and protect our Fiſhery, and after that to do the like to the *French* Veſſels on the Bank.

Laſtly, And ſince the Succeſs of this Expedition depended very much upon the good Agreement between him and the Commander in Chief of the Land-Forces, (which was, indeed, not only in this Caſe, but many others, found a very difficult thing) he was enjoined to take care, That no unneceſſary Scruples or Difficulties did ariſe on that Account.

The Diſtribution of the Prizes and Booty that ſhould be taken in the Weſt Indies.

Diſtribution of Prizes and Booty.

I. ALL Prizes taken at Sea were to be diſtributed according to an Act of Parliament in that behalf: And of all the Booty at Land, a Third Part was to be ſet aſide for the Lieutenant Governor of *Jamaica*, when Commander in Chief on any Expedition, or to the Commander in Chief for the time being; The other two Thirds to be diſtributed among the Officers and Soldiers, as will be hereafter more particularly expreſſed.

II. His Majeſty's Part of all Prizes at Sea was to be divided among the Seamen only, and the Booty at Land to be divided among the Land-Men only.

III. But when Land-Men happened to be commanded on Board upon any Expedition; or, if in their Paſſage to the *Weſt-Indies*, the Tranſ-

Tranſport Ships ſhould be Engaged, and a Prize taken, the Land-Men were to be conſidered as Seamen, and their Officers on Board to receive a Share according to their Pay. And in like manner the Seamen were to be conſidered in Service on Shoar.

IV. That of all Booty, or Prizes, taken in Service on Shoar, wherein the Commander in Chief of the Squadron for the time being ſhould aſſiſt with 400 Seamen, or more, the ſaid Commander in Chief was to have the Share allotted to a Colonel, and the Officers appointed by him to Command thoſe Men, to be conſidered as Land-Officers.

V. No Officer of the Militia was to be conſidered as a Colonel, that did Command leſs than 500 Men: Nor as a Captain, if leſs in his Company than 56, unleſs ſuch Regiment, or Company, ſhould, after their proceeding on the Expedition, happen to be reduced by Sickneſs, or Accidents of War.

Two Thirds of the Booty taken at Land was to be thus divided.

To Field and Staff Officers.

	Shares.
Colonel, as Colonel	18
Lieutenant Colonel, as Lieutenant Colonel	10 1/2
Major, as Major	7 1/2
Captain	10
Adjutant	6
Chyrurgeon	6
Chyrurgeon's Mates—2, 4 Shares each	8
Quarter Master	6
Total	72

One Company.

Captain	12
Two Lieutenants, each 6 Shares	12
Enſign	4 1/2
Six Serjeants	12
Six Corporals	9
Two Drummers	3
Two hundred private Men	200
	252 1/2

Five

	Shares.
Five Companies more, consisting of the like Number	1262½
The Commissary of Stores and Provisions, Paymaster of the Forces, Commissary of the Musters, and Judge Advocate	12
Total	1599

To the Officers of the Ordnance.

Ensign	15
Master Gunner	7½
Gunner's Mate	4½
Twelve Gunners, each 3 Shares	36
Firemaster	7½
Six Bombardiers, each 3¾ Shares	22½
Master Carpenter	6
Three Mates, each 3¾ Shares	11
Chyrurgeon	6
	116
	1599
In all	1715

Two

Two Thirds of the King's Part of the Prizes at Sea were to be divided after this manner, *viz.*

To the Captain — 3 Eights.
Lieutenant & Maſter — 1 Eight.
Boatſwain, Gunner, Purſer, Carpenter, Maſter's Mate, Chyrurgeon, Chaplain — 1.
Midſhipmen —— Carpenter's Mates. Boatſwains Mates. Gunner's Mates. — 1 Eight.
Corporals. Yeomen of the Sheets. Coxwain. Quarter-Maſters —
To be divided equally amongſt them.

To

To the Doctor's Mates.
Chirurgeon's Mates. } 1 Eight.
Yeomen of the Powder-Room
Trumpeter.
Quarter-Gunner.
Carpenter's Crew.
Steward.
Cook.
Armourer.
Steward's Mate. } 2 Eights.
Gunſmith.
Swabber.
Ordinary Trumpeter.
Barber.
Able Seamen —

} To be divided equally amongſt them.

Laſtly, Such Officers, Soldiers, and Seamen, as ſhould happen to receive Wounds in any Action where a Booty or Prize was taken, were to have a double Share, in Conſideration of the ſaid Wounds. Pur-

Captain Wilmot *ſails from* Plimouth, *and arrives at* Hiſpaniola.

Purſuant to theſe Inſtructions, Captain *Wilmot* ſailed from *Plimouth*, and arriving in the old Road of *St. Chriſtophers*, one of the Leeward Iſlands, departed from thence the 28th of *March*, 1694, for the Iſland of *Savona*, which lies at the Eaſtermoſt-end of *Hiſpaniola*, intending if the Governor of *St. Domingo* was ready to march to *Porta Paix*, to ſail on the Weſt ſide of the Iſland, and aſſault it by Sea, which he could not have been able to do, had he gone down to *St. Domingo*, or on the South ſide, becauſe it would have been a great hinderance to the Tranſport Ships, which ſailed very ill, and could not ſo well keep a Wind.

The French had ſeveral Privateers from Guardalupe *and* Martinico.

The *French* at this time had 19 Privateers out of *Guardalupe*, and *Martinico*, and three Ships of War, one of 44 Guns, another of 40, and a third, a ſmall *Dutch* Ship which they had taken at *Camoret* Bay, and thoſe Privateers were chiefly ſupported by ſuch Merchant Ships and Veſſels of ours as they frequently took, loaden with Proviſions for the Iſlands: Beſides, the *French* General had notice of his coming, and daily expected him at *Hiſpaniola*, where they had muſter'd all their Strength together, notwithſtanding the great Care taken at home for keeping the Expedition private.

When

When the Squadron arrived at *Savona*, the Commadore met with a Letter from the Governor of *St. Domingo*, letting him know, That if he would come there he ſhould be aſſiſted in attempting the Enemy on that Coaſt; upon which he ſailed with three of his Ships, and two Fireſhips, and ſent the Tranſports with the remainder of the Squadron to the Gulph of *Samina*, on the North ſide of the Iſland. *The Squadron proceeds to St. Domingo.*

When he landed, he deſired the Aſſiſtance of the Preſident of *St. Domingo*, and deliver'd to him the King of *Spain*'s Letters; but although he made at firſt a ſhew of Readineſs to comply therewith, yet (like a right *Spaniard*) he ſoon raiſed inſignificant Scruples, by which twelve Days time was loſt. Then indeed it was agreed, that he ſhould forthwith march with 1700 of his Men, and 150 *Engliſh*, to *Machaneel* Bay, on the North ſide of the Iſland, and that the Squadron ſhould meet him there.

Accordingly the Squadron ſailed to Cape *François*, which was the very Windermoſt Settlement the *French* had; and when the Commadore had put on Shore the reſt of the *Engliſh* Forces within three Leagues of the Cape, he ſailed directly within Gun-ſhot of the Fort, from whence they fired very warmly at *They arrive at Cape François, and are fired upon from the French Fort.*

at our Ships, and in ſome meaſure diſabled one of them, the *Swan*.

Reſolution about attacking the Town and Fort. It was concluded, that ſo ſoon as the Soldiers could march to one end of the Town, the Ships ſhould batter the Fort, whereon was mounted 40 Guns, and that the Seamen ſhould aſſault the Back of it, the Ground there being higher than the Fort it ſelf. In order to this a convenient Place was ſought for to land at, but were repulſed: However, the next Evening they went with a greater Strength, and the Enemy thinking that we did then intend to Land, blew up the Fort and burnt the Town, laying Trains of Powder to the Houſes where any Plunder was, which had like to have done much Miſchief to our Men.

The French *deſtroy them both.*

Reſolution of marching to Porta Paix *not executed by the Colonel of the Forces.* The next Day the Commadore ſent to the *Spaniſh* General, to know when he could be ready to go to *Porta Paix*, and upon his Anſwer, and a Conſultation, it was agreed that the Colonel who Commanded the Forces, ſhould march thither with 300 *Engliſh*, in company of the *Spaniſh* Forces, it being (as they ſaid) about 14 Leagues off. But either the ſaid Colonel thought it not proper to undertake this Affair, or for ſome other Reaſons, it was laid aſide, and the Men ſtraggled up and down

down the Country for Plunder, by which means ſeveral of them were loſt.

The Commadore not hearing from the Forces ſince they marched from Cape *François*, called a Council of War, and propoſed the Landing 400 Seamen, to ſee if they could gain Communication with them; for he had reaſon to doubt that they were in hazard. Accordingly ſuch a Number of Men was landed, about five Miles Eaſtward of *Porta Paix*; and though they received ſome Oppoſition by an Ambuſcade, yet they burnt and deſtroyed the Enemy's Plantations to the very Fort it ſelf, to which the *French* retired: But not hearing any thing of our Soldiers, they came on board the Ships at Night. *The Commadore lands Seamen to ſuſtain the Army, & they fall into an Ambuſcade.*

Soon after this, the Commadore had notice that the Army had ſtraggled up near *Porta Paix*, whereupon he landed again the like Number of Seamen as before, in order to join them, and the next Day put on ſhore the Cannon and Mortars; but little haſte was made in mounting them by thoſe whoſe proper Buſineſs it was. *Some Cannon and Mortars put on ſhore, but a great delay in mounting them.*

It was now reſolved, that the Squadron ſhould ſail Weſtward of *Porta Paix*, where there was a commodious Hill to annoy the Enemy, and it was much

much nearer than the firſt intended Battery; and there 10 pieces of Cannon were mounted, which ſo much gauled them, that in few Days part of the inward Fort was beaten down, and many People, who retired thither, were killed.

The inward Fort of Porta Paix *battered down.*

The 3d of *July*, 1695, between the Hours of Twelve and One, the *French* ſallied out, with about 300 Whites, and 200 Negroes, well-armed; but the Commadore having notice thereof by a Negro, detached 150 Men to receive them, and lay ready with the reſt, to join them upon occaſion; by which means many were killed, eſpecially their Commanding Officers, and ſeveral taken Priſoners. After this Defeat our Forces immediately took poſſeſſion of the Fort, wherein they found 80 Cannon mounted, and good ſtore of Powder and Shot.

The French *ſally out but are beaten.*

The Fort taken.

The Colonel of the Land Forces was ſoon after deſired to ſend his Sick Men to *Jamaica*, and to keep thoſe that were in Health at this Place, to aſſiſt in the intended Service at *Logan*, and *Petit-Guavas*; but neither he or the *Spaniſh* General thought it adviſeable: Wherefore the Commadore demoliſhed the Fort, and carried off the Guns and Stores, and then ſailed to *Jamaica*, where

The Fort demoliſhed, and the Squadron ſails from thence to Jamaica, *and ſo to* England.

where having refitted the Ships, and put all things into the beſt Order he could, he took his departure for *England* the 3d Day of *September*, leaving behind him the *Reſerve*, *Hampſhire*, *Ruby*, and *Swan*, the laſt to bring home ſome Merchant Ships when loaden, and the three firſt (being Fourth Rates) to guard *Jamaica* till further Order; but ſuch Difficulties they met with in their Paſſage, not only by reaſon of the bad Weather, but the violent and uncommon Diſtemper that ſeized the Men, that it was almoſt next to a Miracle the Ships got home; and Captain *Wilmot* the Commadore, and a great Number of the Officers, died in the Paſſage, and one of the 4th Rates, for want of Men to trim her Sails, ran on Ground, and was loſt on the Shoals of Cape *Florida*.

Thus ended the Expeditions at Sea, both at Home and Abroad, this Year, and no more Ships being kept out than what were abſolutely neceſſary for guarding the Coaſt, and Convoys for the Trade, the reſt were ordered to the ſeveral Ports, that ſo they might be timely fitted for the next Year's Service: But His Majeſty receiving Advice, that the *French* did intend to take this

The French intending to make a Deſcent from Dunkirk, &c. they are prevented by our ſpeedy Preparations.

Opportunity to embark an Army from *Calais*, *Dunkirk*, and the Ports thereabouts, and therewith to make a Deſcent on *England*, ſignify'd his Pleaſure to the Lords of the Admiralty, by Admiral *Ruſſell*, the 21ſt of *February*, 1695, That all the Ships in the River of *Thames* and *Medway*, as well as thoſe at the *Nore*, *Spithead*, *Plimouth*, and elſewhere, which could be got ready, ſhould be ordered to repair immediately to the *Downes*: And for the better enabling them ſo to do, Orders were given to thoſe at *Portſmouth* and *Plimouth* to Man themſelves from the Merchant Ships, and to bring as many more as they could conveniently receive to other Ships in want. The Civil Magiſtrates of *Kent*, and about *Portſmouth*, were alſo ordered to ſecure all ſtraggling Seamen, and to ſend them to the Commiſſioners reſiding neareſt to the Place where they ſhould meet with them; and the Commander in Chief in the River *Medway* was likewiſe directed to haſten all the Ships from thence, and the *Nore*, to the *Downes*, and the Maſter-Attendant on Float, to do the like to all Ships of War, Fireſhips, and other Veſſels, fitting out in the River. All the Boats belonging to the Ships at the *Nore* and *Blackſtakes*, were ordered to

preſs

preſs Watermen, Bargemen, Lightermen, and others working on the River *Medway*: Beſides which, general Orders were iſſued to preſs all without diſtinction, except ſuch as were employed on neceſſary Services of the Navy, Ordnance, or Victualling; and there being an Embargo laid on all Merchant Ships, it was ordered that a third Part of the Men belonging to thoſe Outward-bound ſhould be taken from them, for the more ſpeedy putting the Fleet into a Condition to prevent the Enemy's Deſign. Mr. *Ruſſell* himſelf (after he had aſſiſted as Firſt Lord of the Admiralty in theſe Preparations) did by the King's particular Command repair immediately to the *Downes* to command upon this Important Service, where he arrived the 24th; and thô he found no more Ships there than one Firſt, two Thirds, ſix Fourths, and two Fifth Rates, with one Fireſhip, a Ketch, and a Brigantime, yet ſuch ſpeedy Orders were iſſued, and ſo diligently were they put in execution, that he was joined in three Days following at the *Southſand's-head*, by Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, with 13 more, beſides 11 *Engliſh* and *Dutch* from *Spithead*, and the next Day his Number was encreaſed by 10 Ships from *Plimouth*, at which time he was

Mr. Ruſſell by the King's particular Order commanded the Fleet appointed to oppoſe the Enemy.

ſtanding *Eaſtward* along the *French* Coaſt.

The 1ſt of *March*, 1695, there ſailed from the *Downes* to join him 10 more, great and ſmall. In fine, notwithſtanding there was not in the *Downes* on the 24th of *February* above 11 Ships, and that all the reſt of the Ships in Pay were at Places diſtant one from the other, and moſt of them but very poorly Mann'd, yet by the 28th of that Month, the Admiral had with him off of *Gravelin*, one Firſt, 12 Third, 24 Fourths, and three Fifth Rates, beſides Fireſhips of the *Engliſh*; and 12 Ships of War of the *Dutch*, and two of their Fireſhips; and in few Days after they were augmented to near Fourſcore ſail, reckoning into the Number ſmall Sixth Rates, Brigantines, *&c*; and with them there were the ſeveral Flag Officers following, *viz.* the Admiral himſelf, the Lord *Berkeley* Admiral of the Blue, Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* Vice-Admiral of the Red, Mr. *Aylmer* Vice-Admiral of the Blue, and two *Dutch* Rear-Admirals.

The great Number of Ships that were in very few days got together.

The Admiral came to an Anchor off of *Gravelin* the 28th of *February*, 1695, with part of the Fleet, and the Lord *Berkeley* lay between him and *Dunkirk*. As he ſailed cloſe in with *Calais*, he perceived that Harbour ſo much crowded with

with all ſorts of Imbarcations, that they were judged not to be leſs than between Three and four hundred, and they had all their Sails to the Yards. In *Flemiſh* Road there was about 17 Ships of War, great and ſmall, with which they would probably in few Days have come over with the Tranſports; for, as ſome Priſoners related, they were of Opinion, that ſince our great Ships were gone in to refit, and thoſe from the *Streights* not arrived, we had not any Strength at Sea; and 'tis reaſonable to believe that they did deſign to ſtrengthen this Convoy by other Ships from *Breſt*, and the Ports of Weſt *France*. Thirteen of theſe 17 Ships retired as cloſe in with the Pier of *Dunkirk* as poſſibly they could, and according to the beſt Judgment that could be made of them, four were of about 70 Guns, three between 50 and 60, and the reſt ſmall Frigats.

Many Tranſport Ships ſeen at Calais.

And what Ships of War they had at Dunkirk

Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, with ſeveral Captains, was ſent to look on them, but found that nothing could be attempted with any proſpect of Succeſs; and the *Dutch* Pilots, ſent by Mr. *Meeſters*, being examined, they declared, That when the Tides were mended, if the Wind was from the S. to the W. S. W, and a freſh Gale, they would venture to carry ſuch of our Ships as drew not more Water

Impracticable to attempt the Ships at Dunkirk.

than 15 or 16 *Dutch* Feet, through *Flemiſh* Road, and out of the Eaſt Chanel by *Newport*, provided they did not Anchor: But if any Accidents happened, by the Ships Maſts coming by the Board, or other Interruption, they were apprehenſive that they might be expoſed to imminent Danger.

The Pilots who came from *Newport* owned themſelves ignorant of the Sands or Chanels about *Dunkirk*; ſo that it being concluded there could be no attempt made there, with probability of Succeſs, the Admiral reſolved to come with the Fleet to *Dover* Road, or the *Downes*, and to leave a proper Squadron to attend the motion of the Enemy's Ships, and Cruizers in other convenient Stations; which Squadron was put under the Command of Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell.*

A Squadron left off Dunkirk with Sir Cloud-ſly Shovell.

The 23d of *March*, 1695, three Bomb-Veſſels join'd the Squadron, and then Sir *Cloudeſly* called a Council of War, at which was preſent the Captains of all the Ships, as alſo Colonel *Richards* and Captain *Benbow*, who agreed, that it was not adviſeable to Bomb *Calais* with the ſmall Number of Mortars they had, but rather to ſtay till they could be augmented, and that more favourable Weather preſented for ſuch an Undertaking.

They ſtaid for more Mortars to Bomb Calais.

The

The 28th, a *Sweed*'s Veſſel came into the *Downes* that was the Day before at *Calais*, the Maſter whereof ſaid, That about five Weeks before, when off of that Port in his way to *Nants*, he went on ſhore to get ſome Water, and was there ſeized, and his Ship carried in, as he believed for Tranſporting their Forces to *England*. He added, That King *James* was at *Calais*, and went from thence ſoon after Admiral *Ruſſel* came before the Place; That at *Calais*, and thereabouts, they had near 12000 Soldiers, and about 300 Veſſels for Tranſportation, which were diſperſed before his coming away, ſo that there was no more left in *Calais* than the Ordinary Gariſon, and that 150 of the ſmall Veſſels were alſo gone to the ſeveral Places whereto they belonged; but that neither they, himſelf, or other *Danes* and *Sweeds* taken up for this Service, had any recompence for their Trouble, and loſs of Time. *The Maſter of a Sweediſh Veſſel's Account of the intended Deſcent.*

The 31ſt of this Month of *March*, Admiral *Almonde* came into the *Downes* from *Holland*, with ſix Ships of the Line of Battel, and two Fireſhips, and the next Morning ſeveral of our Ships arrived there from *Spithead*; and the Day following Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty,

to return with all the Bomb-Veſſels to the Coaſt of *France*, and to attempt, with them, the burning *Calais*, and the Tranſport Ships and Veſſels there, being empower'd to take with him ſuch of the ſmall Frigats in the *Downes* as he ſhould think neceſſary for that Service. He arrived off of *Calais* the 3d, and from that Day at Noon, till Night, about 300 Bombs and Carcaſſes were thrown into the Town, where, and among the Imbarcations in the Pier, many were ſeen to break, which probably did them conſiderable Damage; though nothing could be diſtinctly ſeen, but a ſmall Veſſel on fire in the Harbour, and the Town flaming in three or four Places, which was ſoon extinguiſhed.

Sir Cloudeſly Shovell *arrives off of* Calais, *and the Town Bombarded.*

In this Action the Bomb-Veſſels and Brigantines received much damage in their Rigging, and all the Mortars but two were diſabled: Several of the Frigats were alſo wounded in their Maſts and Rigging, and the Wind coming about the next Day from the S. S. E. to the S. W, and blowing very hard, it was thought convenient to return to the *Downes*, from whence Sir *Cloudeſly* appointed a Squadron to keep in the *French* Men of War at *Dunkirk*, and received Orders on the 11th to proceed

ceed with the Fleet to *Spithead*, in Company of all the *Dutch* Ships in the *Downes*, at which time there was with him 2 Firſt Rates, 5 Seconds, 9 Thirds, 11 Fourths, 1 Brigantine, and 7 Fireſhips, the ſeveral Ships hereafter mentioned, which were deſigned for the Fleet, being employ'd on particular Services by the Lords of the Admiralty.

Sir Cloudeſly Shovel ordered to Spithead with the Fleet.

Ships not in the Downes *when Sir* Cloudeſly Shovel *ſailed from thence.*

Rate.	Ships Names.	
3	*Berwick*	Off of *Calais.*
	Captain.	
	Defiance.	
	Edgar.	
	Kent.	
4	*Burlington*	
3	*Burford*	Of of *Dunkirk.*
	Mountague.	
	Reſolution.	
	Suffolk.	
6	*Lark.*	
Fireſhip,	*Firebrand*	
3	*Royal Oak*	Gone to *Sheerneſs* for a Foremaſt.

Rate.

Rate.	Ships Names.	
4	*Norwich*	Gone to *Portſmouth* to refit.
	Severne	Gone to the *Nore* to bring Victualling-Ships to the *Downes.*
6	*Greyhound*	Ordered from *Shoreham* to the *Downes.*
1	*Britannia*	At ſeveral Places, under Orders to proceed to the *Downes.*
	St. Andrew.	
2	*Royal Katherine.*	
3	*Content.*	
	Reſtauration.	
4	*Litchfield.*	
	Portland	

The Sickneſs of the Men occaſioned by the early fitting out the Fleet.

Here I muſt obſerve, That the early fitting out the Fleet, and the untowardneſs of the Weather, occaſioned great Sickneſs among the Men, inſomuch that near 500 were put on Shoar at *Deale*, and many more were in an ill Condition that remain'd on board the Ships.

A Line of Battel formed.

A Line of Battel was now formed, of all ſuch Ships as either were with him, or that might reaſonably be expected upon any preſſing Occaſion, which amounted

amounted in the whole to 2 Firſt Rates, 5 Seconds, 22 Thirds, and 17 Fourths of the *Engliſh*; and of the *Dutch*, 4 of 90 or 94 Guns, 7 of 70, and 6 from 66 to 60, beſides 8 *Engliſh* and 5 *Dutch* Fireſhips, and 5 of our ſmall Frigats, and 7 Brigantines: Moreover there was 2 Firſt Rates, the *Britannia* and *St. Andrew*, and a Second Rate, the *St. Michael*, that lay under Orders to proceed to him from the *Buoy of the Nore*, which Ships join'd him the 23d of *April*.

Du Bart fitting out a Squadron at Dunkirk.

About this time there was Advice from *Oſtend*, That *Du Bart* was certainly fitting out at *Dunkirk* 8 Ships of War, and 2 Fireſhips. The Reports of his Deſign were various; ſome ſaid, 'twas to join the main Fleet; others, to protect the Veſſels from *St. Malo* and *Havre de Grace* to *Dunkirk* and *Calais*; whereas ſome thought, that he intended to Cruize in the North Chanel; and others had a jealouſy, that he intended to attack His Majeſty in his Paſſage to *Holland*, tho' I think there was little reaſon to apprehend the latter; for at the beginning of the War he did not think fit to attempt it, altho' His Majeſty had with him none but foul Ships of any Strength, whereas *Du Bart* had ſeveral juſt come out of *Dunkirk* clean, with which he lay by for ſome time,

Obſervations upon Du Bart's *meeting the King in his Paſſage to* Holland.

not

not much out of Gun-Shot, without daring to gain himſelf the Reputation of ſtanding up, and giving our Ships one Broadſide, altho' he might, at pleaſure, have run round them, without expoſing himſelf to any great Danger: But Blows being not his Buſineſs, he reſerved himſelf, and Squadron, for ſome better opportunity of Advantage on Merchant Ships, or ſuch as could make no great Reſiſtance.

Sir Geo. Rooke arrives in the Downes *from the* Streights *and takes the Command of the Fleet.*

Before Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* could proceed to *Spithead* with the Fleet, Sir *George Rooke*, Admiral of the White, arrived in the *Downes* from the *Streights*, and took upon him the ſole Command; and after he had diſpatched ſuch Matters as were neceſſary, with reſpect not only to the Fleet, but thoſe Ships that he was ordered to detach therefrom on particular Services, he ſailed and arrived at *Spithead* the 30th of *April*, having left ſome ſmall Ships, and the Bomb-Veſſels, behind, to bring after him near 1000 Men in Sick Quarters at *Deale*, *Dover*, *Sandwich*, *Ramſgate*, and other Places thereabouts.

He arrives at Spithead.

Orders ſent him to proceed into the Soundings.

The 3d of *May*, 1696, he received Orders to proceed into the *Soundings*, which being very preſſing, and the Ships that came home with him from the *Streights* in no good Condition for Ser-

Service, for that, beſides other Things, they did more eſpecially want Beer and Stores, he thought it Adviſeable to call a Council of War, by whom it was determined to ſail with the very firſt Opportunity, after the *Streights* Ships were ſupplied with what was abſolutely neceſſary to enable them to keep to Sea; but that in the interim the State and Condition of the Fleet ſhould be repreſented to the Lords of the Admiralty, which conſiſted of 6 Firſt Rates, 8 Seconds, 22 Thirds, and 3 Fourths, of the *Engliſh*; and of the *Dutch* 16, whereof there was 3 of 90 Guns, 8 of 70 and 74, 4 of 60 and 64, and one of 50, beſides the Fireſhips, Frigats, and ſmall Veſſels of both Nations, being in the whole of the Line of Battel but 55; and the *Engliſh* Ships, from the Firſt to the Third Rate, did at this time want upwards of 3300 Men, of the 19500, their allowed Compliment.

A Council of War reſolve to ſail when the Ships could be furniſhed with what they wanted.

The reaſon of the Fleet's being reduced to ſo ſmall a Number, was the other Services many of the Ships were employed on, *viz.*

The reaſon of the Fleet's being reduced to a ſmaller Number than deſigned.

Rate.

Rate.	Ships Names.	
3 ——	*Reſolution* ——	Cruizing in
	Monmouth.	the *Sounding*, to protect the Trades expected home.
	Dunkirk.	
	Content.	
	Defiance.	
4 ——	*Severne.*	
Fireſhips,	Two ——	
3 ——	*Berwick* ——	Appointed
	Edgar.	Convoys
	Lion.	for *Portugal*,
4 ——	*Medway.*	*Bilboa*, and
Fireſhips,	Three ——	the *Canaries.*
3 ——	*Cornwall* ——	Ordered to
Fireſhips,	Two ——	the *Nore.*
4 ——	*Pembroke* ——	Off of *Dunkirk.*
Fireſhips,	Two ——	
3 ——	*Humber* ——	In *Portſmouth* Harbour.
	Sterling-Caſtle	
	Elizabeth ——	Gone to *Holland* with the King.
	Breda ——	Laid up at *Portſmouth.*

So that 17 *Engliſh* Ships (beſides *Dutch*) were taken from the Number firſt appointed for the Body of the Fleet; all which were of the Line of Battel.

Sir

Sir *George Rooke* was, ſoon after his return from *Cadiz*, appointed Admiral and Commander in chief of the Fleet, and was directed to proceed therewith, and lie in ſuch a Station as he ſhould judge moſt proper, for preventing the Squadron expected from *Thoulon*, and their Convoys, getting into any Port of *France*, and according to Intelligence of their Proceedings, to remove to proper Stations, for the effectual Performance of that Service; and upon meeting them, or his being informed that they were got into any Port where they might be attacked, he was to endeavour to deſtroy them: But if he received certain Advice they were got into *Breſt*, he was then to come with the Fleet to *Torbay*, and remain there till farther Order.

Sir Geo. Rooke ordered to lie in a Station to prevent the Thoulon Ships getting to Breſt.

This was the Contents of his Inſtructions; but he was under no little uneaſineſs how to comply therewith, by reaſon of the great want of Men, and the ſmall Strength of the Fleet, and therefore he called another Council of War, where it was nevertheleſs reſolved, to proceed Weſt 15 Leagues from *Uſhant*, and that, in their Paſſage, ſome ſmall Frigats and Brigantines ſhould be ſent for Intelligence, and particularly to diſcover whether the *Thoulon* Squadron

A Council of War reſolve on the Station.

dron was got into *Breſt*: But the Council of War thought it convenient to repreſent, That ſince the Fleet was reduced to 37 *Engliſh* Ships, and 20 *Dutch*, of the Line of Battel, they would be of leſs Strength than the *Thoulon* Squadron, and that of Monſieur *Neſmond*'s, if join'd. However, to ſtrengthen them all that poſſibly could be, he was ordered to take with him three Third Rates, one Fourth, and three of the Fireſhips, that were appointed for Foreign Convoys.

The Fleet off of Dartmouth. The Fleet was off of *Dartmouth* on the 8th of this Month, and there the *Oxford* join'd them, whoſe Captain was in the Morning informed by the Maſter of a *Portugueſe* Ship bound to *Rotterdam*, that the 2d Inſtant, in the Latitude of 45 Degrees, Cape *Finiſter* then bearing South, diſtant about 40 Leagues, he met with a Fleet of *French* Men of War, being in all 40 Sail, and 34 of them from 50 to 80 Guns, as nigh as he could judge; that they were then ſteering away N. N. E, with the Wind at W. N. W, and that four of them were Flag-ſhips, *viz.* the Vice and Rear Admirals of the White, and Vice and Rear Admirals of the Blue.

Sir Geo. *receives Advice of the* French *Ships.*

A great want of Cruizing Frigats. The Admiral was in great want of Cruizing Frigats to gain Intelligence of the

the Enemy, inſomuch that the *French* Scouts and Privateers came in and made their Obſervations without oppoſition; and by reaſon of ſmall Gales Southerly, our Fleet was kept on the Coaſt of *England* till the 12th.

The Lime brings an Account of the French Ships coming through the Streights.

The Night before the *Lyme* join'd him, which Ship he had left to cruize about the *Streights*, and her Captain received Advice the 2d of *April* from the *Engliſh* Conſul at *Malaga*, that the *French* Fleet were ſeen off of *Almaria* Bay the 28th of the preceeding Month. On the 9th of *April* the ſaid Captain was further informed that the *French* were plying Weſtward off of Cape *de Gat*, and that 8 of their beſt Sailers were got as low as *Maderill.* Three days after, by the help of a ſtrong *Levant*, he got through the *Streights*, and lay off of Cape *Spartell* to obſerve their motion, and at four in the Afternoon he made four Sail coming down the *Barbary* Shoar, and they chaſing him, forced him the next day into the Bay of *Cadiz*, where he had Advice the 16th, by Expreſs from *Gibraltar*, that the *French* Fleet was at Anchor off that Place. The 21ſt he ply'd up to his Station off of Cape *Spartell*, and ſaw near 50 Sail coming down under the Land, before the Wind; but 5 of them giving him chaſe, he did not

ſee the Body of the Fleet again till the next Morning about 10, and then they were between the Bay of *Lagos* and Cape *St. Vincent*, going away large with a preſt Sail, the Wind at E. S. E.

The Fleet coming off of Uſhant. The 14th of *May*, 1696, in the Morning, our Fleet came on the Coaſt of *Uſhant*, and then a Squadron of Ships, and ſmall Veſſels, was detached under Command of Captain *Beaumont*, and ſent in for Intelligence, between *Uſhant* and the Main. Without any Reſiſtance he ſtood fair in to *Camaret* and *Bertram* Bays, and ſaw as much in *Broad Sound* as 'twas poſſible to do without paſſing their Forts; there he diſcover'd 22 Sail, 17 or 18 of which he judged were Ships of the Line of Battel, and 8 or 9 of them of 3 Decks, with 4 Flags, *viz.*, Admiral, Vice and Rear Admiral of White and Blue, and Rear-Admiral of the White, which, according to the Opinion of the Pilots, were all the Ships of Force they had there: But by the Captain of a *French* Man of War called the *Foudriant*, taken by Captain *Norris* the 16th of this Month, he was informed that the *Thoulon* Fleet got into *Breſt* the 5th, Old Stile, and that they were 47 Ships of the Line, but that 4 others were obliged to return to *Thoulon*, by reaſon of the Damage they received

Advice received of the French *Ships being got into* Breſt.

ceived before they paſſed the *Streights*. This Prize had not been at Sea before, but was now going out to join Monſieur *Chaſteau Renault*'s Squadron, one of which he took Captain *Norris*'s Ship to be, their Station being, as he ſaid, about S. W, and by W, 48 Leagues from *Scilly*, and in number two three Deck'd Ships, two of 70 Guns, two of 60, and two of about 30; but by the Account given by Captain *Fitz-Patrick*, it was judged this Squadron was ſeen by him going into *Breſt*, ſome whereof he had certainly engaged with, had they not retired upon diſcovering other Ships advancing towards him.

A Council of War reſolve to continue in the Station.

Upon the firſt account given by Captain *Beaumont* a Council of War of all the Flag-Officers was called, and ſince it appeared uncertain whether or no the *Thoulon* Fleet was got into *Breſt*, it was reſolved to continue in the appointed Rendezvous, ſo long as the Winds hung Eaſterly, in expectation of the ſeveral Ships ordered to reinforce the Fleet, and, in the mean time, to endeavour to gain further Intelligence, by taking People from the Shore, and by ſending a ſmall Frigat, and an Advice-Boat, to *Bell Iſle*, to diſcover whether any part of the *French* Fleet was there. But upon the aforemention'd

Account, received afterwards from Captain *Fitz-Patrick*, and what was reported by ſome that were taken from the Shore, it was judged there was no room to doubt of the *Thoulon* Fleet, and Monſieur *Neſmond*'s Squadron's being in *Breſt*; ſo that the Flag-Officers were called together again the 18th, and they reſolved to lie as near the Rendezvous as 'twas poſſible, ſo long as the Winds ſhould be Northerly, or Eaſterly; but upon the firſt ſhift Southerly, or Weſterly, to repair to *Torbay*, as the Lords of the Admiralty had directed, by their Orders of the 29th of the laſt Month.

It is afterwards determined to come to Torbay *with the firſt Southerly, or Weſterly Wind.*

Several Dutch *and* Engliſh *Ships join the Fleet.*

The next Day Vice-Admiral *Evertſen* with 12 *Dutch* Men of War joined the Fleet, together with an *Engliſh* Fourth Rate, the *Sunderland*, and the *Fortune* Fireſhip, and in the Afternoon Vice-Admiral *Aylmer* did the like in the *Elizabeth*, with the *Newark*, and *Mary*, and between 30 and 40 Sail more, among which were the Bomb-Veſſels and Tenders: But, according to what was determined, the Fleet came to *Torbay* the 23d, ſeveral Cruizers being Station'd between *Uſhant* and the Iſle of *Baſſe*, the *Start* and *Uſhant*, and off of the *Lizard*: And at this time the whole Fleet was 115 Ships and Veſſels, 67 of them

The Fleet comes to Torbay.

Engliſh,

Engliſh, and 48 *Dutch*, whereof 85 were of the Line of Battel, of which 49 were *Engliſh*, *viz.* 6 Firſt Rates, 8 Second, 28 Thirds, and 7 Fourths; and 36 *Dutch*, 8 of which carried 90 Guns, 14 between 70 and 74, 11, 64, and 3 50, but ſeveral of the Ships were very Sickly, eſpecially thoſe that came from the *Streights*, inſomuch that there wanted full 4000 Men in the *Engliſh* Ships; nor was there any great proſpect of their ſudden Recovery, ſince the little Villages thereabouts were not capable to receive many.

Sir Geo. Rooke ordered to his Duty at the Admiralty-Board, and the Lord Berkeley to command the Fleet.

The 27th of *May*, 1696, Sir *George Rooke* received Orders to return to his Duty at the Admiralty-Board, and to leave the Command of the Fleet to the Lord *Berkeley*, who was appointed Admiral; but before he came on Shore, he had advice from Commiſſioner *St. Lo* at *Plimouth*, that one of our Advice-Boats, the *Mercury*, had counted, a little above *Camoret* Bay, 70 ſail of *French* Men of War, all ready to ſail, with four Flags flying, three whereof Blue, and one White, and in the Bay it ſelf five ſmall Ships more; which Account he communicated to the Lords of the Admiralty. Being come to Town, he made the following Propoſal to the Duke of *Shrewsbury*, Principal

A Propoſal made by Sir George Rooke *for attempting the French in* Camoret.

Secretary of State; "That the Body of "the Fleet ſhould lie in *Camoret* and "*Bertram* Bays, and a Detachment be "made to ſuſtain the ſmall Frigats and "Bomb Veſſels, while they went in to "do what Miſchief they could. It was "his Opinion, That thus blocking up "the Enemy's Fleet in their principal "Port, inſulting their Coaſts, and "burning their Towns at the ſame time, "would expoſe them to the World, "make them very uneaſie at Home, "and give Reputation to His Majeſty's "Arms: And he believed it might be "done, if ſpeedily undertaken, with "the Aſſiſtance of ſome ſmall Frigats, "which were much wanted.

A Council of War think it not practicable to attempt the French *in* Breſt *Harbour.*

The Lord *Berkeley* arriving with the Fleet in *Torbay* the 3d of *June*, did immediately betake himſelf to the Diſpatch of all things neceſſary. And ſince a Council of War, both of the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Flag-Officers, did not think it practicable to attempt the *French* Fleet in the Harbour of *Breſt*, he was ordered to conſult with them how the Fleet might be beſt employed the remaining part of the Summer. It was agreed by them, That if the *French* did not diſarm, it was moſt adviſeable to ſail with the Fleet to the Coaſt of *France*, for the ſpace of 14 or 15 Days; by which

which means, if they had not an Opportunity of deſtroying ſome of their Shipping, yet it might very much allarm them, and occaſion the keeping up their Militia, and ſtanding Forces, and ſo conſequently weaken their Armies.

It was alſo agreed, That upon notice of their ſending any Squadrons to moleſt our Trade, equal Strength ſhould be detached to oppoſe them; and that when the *French* diſarmed their Ships, it would be convenient to divide our Fleet, ſome to bombard their Towns, and others to neceſſary Services that called for them; but yet that the whole ſhould be ſo diſpoſed of, as that they might unite upon any immergent Occaſion.

On the 16th, a Council of War was called, upon Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, touching the Fleet's lying in *Bertram* and *Camoret* Bays, and ſending a Squadron with the Bomb-Veſſels to deſtroy ſome of the *French* Towns; and though it was judged that the Fleet could not ride in either of thoſe Bays out of Bomb-ſhot, yet was it reſolved to ſail, when Weather would permit, and look thereinto, and to endeavour to deſtroy the Ships they might meet with there. Accordingly the Fleet turn'd it up as high as *Dartmouth*; but

A Reſolution to ſail to Bertram and Camoret Bays.

the Tide of Ebb being ſpent, and it blowing hard at W. S. W, they were conſtrain'd to bear up for *Torbay*, and the next Day, being the 19th, the *Dutch* Admiral had Orders from His Majeſty, to ſend to *Holland* 8 Ships of the Line of Battel.

8 Dutch Line of Battel Ships ordered home.

The Weather being fair, the Fleet ſailed the 24th of *June*, 1696, with the Wind at N.N. W, and had the good Fortune to get out of the Chanel; and in *Broad-Sound* one of our Ships took a *French* Privateer that came from *Breſt* 14 Days before. The Priſoners ſaid, That all the great Ships were up in the River; That there was about 30 ſail in *Breſt* Water, clean'd and going out in two Squadrons, one to be commanded by Monſieur *Chateau Renault*, and the other by Monſieur *Neſmond*; whereupon it was determined to ſail with the whole Fleet to *Bell Iſle*, and from thence to detach 10 Ships to bombard *St. Martins* and *D'allone*.

Advice received of the fitting out 2 Squadrons at Breſt for Monſieur Chateau Renault and Neſmond.

The Fourth of *July*, 1696, the Fleet anchored about two Leagues from *Bell Iſle*, ſome of our Men having been landed before at *Groy*, where they burnt moſt part of the Villages, and killed and brought off many Cattle, and that without any Reſiſtance, for the People had deſerted the Iſland. A little before the

The Fleet anchors off of Bell Iſle, and did miſchief at Groy, and other Places.

the Fleet came to an Anchor, all the Barges and Pinnaces were ſent to *Howart*, one of the Iſlands call'd the *Cardinals*, where our Men landed, and brought off about 300 head of Cattle. The next Day the *Kent*, *Boyne*, and *Torbay*, two *Dutch* Ships of War, and all the Long-Boats of the Admiral's Diviſion, were ſent to *Groy*, and about 700 Soldiers and Marines being landed there, they finiſhed what had been begun, by burning almoſt 20 Villages. The Boats that were employed in deſtroyed *Howart*, were ordered on the like Service againſt *Hodick*; ſo that, upon a modeſt Computation, there was deſtroyed about 20 Boats; and 1300 Houſes, and near 1600 head of black Cattle and Horſes were killed. Upon the Iſland *Groy* there was no Fortifications, but on each of the *Cardinals* there was a Fort, with a deep Ditch and a double Wall, to which the Inhabitants, with ſome Soldiers, retired. This being done, the Admiral had thoughts of landing on *Bell Iſle*; but ſince he had but 240 of Colonel *Norcott's* Men, (the reſt being gone with the Bomb-Veſſels) it was not thought adviſeable; for the Enemy had there 25 Companies of the Regiment of *Picardy*, beſides 3000 Iſlanders, who could carry Arms.

The Reaſon why we landed not at Bell Iſle.

Theſe

Theſe little Enterprizes being finiſhed, a Council of War agreed, that the Fleet ſhould Stay off *Bell-Iſle* five Days longer, to cover the Ships at the Iſle of *Rhee*, and then proceed off of *Uſhant*.

Damage done to St. Martins and Ollone. That Squadron with the Bomb-Veſſels damaged the Towns of *St. Martins* and *Ollone*; and leaving them on fire, after having expended almoſt 2000 Bombs and Carcaſſes, they joined the Fleet.

On the 19th, Captain *Beaumont* met with a Ship from *Lisbon* bound to the *Downes*, whoſe Maſter informed him,

Monſieur Neſmond ſeen at Sea by a Merchant Ship. That four Days before he fell in with a Squadron of 9 Sail, commanded by Monſieur *Neſmond*, in the Latitude of 46 Degrees North, about 80 Leagues from the Northward Cape; That he was on board the Commadore, where he underſtood they had been but four Days from *Breſt*, and were going off of Cape *St. Vincent* to look for the *Spaniſh Weſt India* Fleet.

The Fleet being now in great want of moſt Species of Proviſions, the Admiral deſired Orders to move Eaſtward, leſt what they had ſhould ſpend faſter than they could be ſupply'd, but more eſpecially if the Victualling Ships expected from *Portſmouth* happen'd to be detain'd by Weſterly Winds; and having made a hard ſhift to Victual

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ten Third Rates, two Fourths, and two Fireſhips, he put them under command of Vice-Admiral *Mitchell*, but they were forced to ſail with very little Butter and Cheeſe; and this Squadron was to cruize in the *Soundings*, to protect the ſeveral Trades expected home.

Vice-Admiral Mitchel ordered into the Soundings with a Squadron.

So many *Dutch* Men of War were ordered from the Fleet, that there remained but 11, ſeven whereof were to be part of their Weſtern Convoy; ſo that on this Account, and the ſeveral other Detachments that were made, the Body of the Fleet was ſo very inconſiderable, that when the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Convoys came to *Torbay*, Admiral *Almonde* was forced to go with his own Ship, in company with thoſe that were particularly appointed, to ſecure them into the Sea; and it was render'd yet weaker, by Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*'s being ordered by the Lords of the Admiralty with five Ships to *Spithead*; wherefore the Admiral received Orders to repair with the Fleet to *Spithead*, where he arrived the 30th, with ſix Firſt Rates, ſix Seconds, and four Thirds, together with four Fireſhips and ſome ſmall Veſſels; from whence he came to Town; but before he left *Torbay*, the *Portland* brought in a Spy-Boat of the Enemy's, whoſe Commander gave his Lord-

The Body of the Fleet very inconſiderable by reaſon of Detachments.

Lord Berkley arrives at Spithead.

Advice of Monſieur Chateau Renaults *being at Sea.*

Lordſhip an Account, That Monſieur *Chateau Renault* ſailed from *Breſt* ſixteen Days before (on what Deſign he knew not) with 16 Men of War and two Fireſhips, which were Victualled for 5 Months.

An Account of Vice-Admiral Mitchell's *Proceedings in the* Soundings.

And now the Service of the Main Fleet in a Body being over for this Year, it remains that I give ſome Account of Vice-Admiral *Mitchell*'s Proceedings in the *Soundings*; who being in chaſe, the 16th of *Auguſt*, 1696, of three Ships that ſtood Eaſtward, which he judged to be Privateers, there happen'd on a ſudden a violent Storm of Wind and Rain, which blew away every Ship's Mainſail that was ſet; and the *Torbay*'s Foretopmaſt came by the Board, though there was not a knot of Sail on it: The *Reſtauration*, a Third Rate, was ſo diſabled that ſhe was forced to go to *Spithead*, having ſprung her Bowſprit, broke her Mainyard, and her Main and Mizen-topmaſts.

The 29th, the Vice-Admiral received Advice from the Lords of the Admiralty, That the *Eaſt-India* Company deſired the Squadron might cruize 300 Leagues Weſt from *Ireland*, between the Latitudes of 49 and 50 North, for the better Security of their Trade expected home; but it appearing that

the

the Squadron had no more than four weeks Water, and not above 3 weeks Butter, Cheeſe, and Neceſſaries, it was not thought practicable to proceed ſo far Weſtward as the Company expected they ſhould.

After this a Letter from Captain *Crow*, dated the 10th of *Auguſt*, to the Lord *Berkeley*, was taken into Conſideration, giving an Account, That the *Portugal* Fleet was daily expected home; and thereupon a Council of War reſolved to continue in the former Station, 60 Leagues S. W. from the *Lizard*, till the 7th of *September*, and then to rendezvous S. W. by W. 40 Leagues from the ſaid Place, till the 15th: And ſince their Proviſions and Neceſſaries would be then reduced to about 10 or 15 days, it was determined to make the beſt of their way to *Spithead*, where arriving, he received Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty; and, purſuant thereunto, took Care for getting the *Boyn*, *Expedition*, *Hampton Court*, *Mary*, *Sunderland*, and *Severne*, ready to go into the *Soundings*, in Company of the *Newark*, *Chicheſter*, and *Reſtauration*; And having prepared the neceſſary Inſtructions for the ſaid Ships on that Service, he was conſtrained to go on Shoar for Recovery of his Health.

This

Captain Geo. Meez *appointed to command a Squadron, and ſent into the* Soundings.

This Squadron Captain *George Meez* was appointed to command; and the 29th of *September*, 1696, he was ordered to proceed therewith into the *Soundings*, and to cruize between Cape *Clear* and Cape *Finiſterre*, for Security of the Trade. He did accordingly cruize in that Station as long as his Proviſions would laſt; and then returned to *Spithead* with three *French* Privateers, the one of 38 Guns, another of 36, and the third of 14.

Intelligence of the Miſchief the French *had done us at* Newfoundland.

In his Cruize he met with a Veſſel from *Newfoundland*, whoſe Maſter informed him, that at the beginning of *September*, 8 Privateers, one of which had 50 Guns, three of 40 each, and another 36, the others ſmaller, together with two Fireſhips, came on that Coaſt, and deſtroyed the Plantations of *Ferryland*, *Agna* Fort, *Fermooze*, *Renooze*, *Loude's Cove*, *Breakhurſt*, and the Bay of *Bulls*; in which Bay our own People burnt the *Saphire*, a Fifth Rate, to prevent her falling into the Enemy's hands.

Rear-Admiral Benbow *appointed to command the Squadron off of* Dunkirk.

The beginning of *May*, 1696, Rear-Admiral *Benbow* was ordered to command the Squadron that lay off of *Dunkirk*, to prevent Monſieur *Du Bart's* getting out from thence; which Ships he found lying North from *Dunkirk* about

about 5 Leagues. He immediately proceeded in his Boat within a Mile of the Enemy's Ships in *Flemiſh* Road, which were 9 in number, and all ready to ſail: And ſince the Wind was then out of the Weſtern Quarter, and fair Weather, and that the Tides were coming on, he expected them out of the North Chanel; and therefore having not Ships ſufficient to cover both, he ſpread thoſe he had, *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, before that Chanel; and the next day, being hazey Weather, he ſent a Ship to look into the Weſt Chanel, where there was nothing to be ſeen. The morning following he ſent a Boat in with the Shoar, and had an Account by her, That there was no Ships in *Flemiſh* Road: So that it was found that *Du Bart* had given him the Slip out of the Eaſt Chanel, which was cloſe along Shoar.

The French Ships there get out.

On the 20th the Rear-Admiral ſpoke with the Maſter of a Veſſel who came from *Norway*, and ſaw *Du Bart* on the Weſt End of the *Doggar* Bank, with 11 Sail, laying his Head Eaſtward, under his Low-Sails, the Wind at N. N. E; and being of opinion that he would cruize for ſome time between that Place and the *Texel*, proceeded thither in ſearch of him: But the *Dutch* having

The Rear-Admiral proceeds to the Doggar Bank in ſearch of them.

ving no Orders ſo to do, refuſed to accompany him.

Du Bart takes ſeveral Dutch Men of War and Merchant Ships.

The 12th of *June*, 1696, he received Advice in *Yarmouth* Roads, that *Du Bart* had met, near the South end of the *Doggar* Bank, with 5 *Dutch* Men of War, and about 70 Merchant Ships, bound to *Holland* from the Eaſt Country, and that he had taken the Men of War, and about 30 of the others, which, together with 4 of the Frigats, he ſet fire to, upon the approach of 13 other *Dutch* Ships that gave him Chaſe, but that he ſent the other two Frigats to *Holland* with the Priſoners.

The Moment he receiv'd this Advice, he ordered the Ships bound to the Eaſt Country to Anchor, and getting under Sail with his Squadron, came up with the Trade from *Hull*, under Convoy of 5 *Dutch* Men of War, who informing him that they ſaw 8 Sail to the South-Eaſt that very Morning, they proceeded together in ſearch of them; but not meeting them, or any further Account, he returned again to *Yarmouth* Roads, and from thence proceeded with the Eaſt Country Trade, and arrived at *Gottenburgh* the 30th of *June*, having detached neceſſary Convoys to the Ships bound to the ſeveral Ports. At *Gottenburgh* he was informed by the Maſter of

Rear-Admiral Benbow and ſome Dutch Ships of War go in queſt of Du Bart.

a *Daniſh* Ship, who came from the *Cow and Calf* in *Norway*, that he had left *Du Bart* there with 10 Sail, cleaning and watering, and that for his greater Security, he had placed a conſiderable Number of his Guns on Shoar.

He hears at Gottenburgh that he was at the Cow and Calf

Our Ships were not in Condition to go in ſearch of him there, otherwiſe they might very probably have done Service; but ſince they wanted Proviſions, and many other Neceſſaries, the Rear-Admiral was conſtrained to return to *Yarmouth* Roads, and from thence to the *Downes*, where he was ſupply'd, and then repaired to *Hamburgh*, to bring from thence a rich Trade, that had only two Frigats for their Convoy.

The Rear-Admiral returns to Yarmouth Roads, and then proceeds to Convoy the Trade from Hamburgh.

In his Paſſage towards *Hamburgh*, he got Intelligence that the Trade from thence was arrived off of *Orfordneſs*, ſo that his Care for them being over, he proceeded off of the *Broad Fourteens* to look for *Du Bart*, and on the 15th of *September*, 1696, met with 10 *Dutch* Men of War that came from the North, ſtanding into the *Maes*: And on the 18th he ſpake with the *Ruby*, and three *Engliſh East-India* Ships, that had come North about, and 11 *Dutch* bound into the *Texell*.

The Trade being arrived, he goes off the Broad Fourteens.

The next day he ſaw 10 Ships W.N.W. of him, and making all the Sail he

He ſees Du Bart, and Chaſes him.

he could to ſpeak with them, diſcovered by their working that it was *Du Bart*'s Squadron, who miſſed the faireſt opportunity imaginable of taking thoſe *Eaſt-India* Ships. Two of our Ships got within an *Engliſh* League of him, but the reſt were near three Leagues aſtern; and when we came to ſteer the ſame Courſe they did, it plainly appear'd they wrong'd us very much; ſo that loſing ſight of them, when the Night came on, and they ſhewing no Lights, the Rear-Admiral gave over chaſe.

Apprehenſion of a Deſcent from Breſt, and Sir Cloudeſly Shovel ſent out.

About this time the King had ſome Advice as if the *French* were making great Preparations at *Breſt*, in order to a Deſcent on this Kingdom, and therefore Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell* was ſent off of that Port with a conſiderable Squadron of Ships; but at length it appear'd that the occaſion of this Apprehenſion was only the Equipment of Monſieur *Ponty*'s Ships, with which he afterwards ſailed to *Carthagena*, as will be related in its proper time.

It proved to be Monſieur Pointy's Squadron fitting out.

Rear-Admiral Nevil arrives with a Squadron at Cadiz.

I now come to the Squadron of Ships that were ſent to the *Streights* with Rear-Admiral *Nevil*; who arriving at *Cadiz* the 9th of *December*, 1696, apply'd himſelf to the Governor, but could get no certain Account of their Flota;

Flota; nor did he find that there was any Squadron of *French* Ships cruizing for them. On the 16th of *January* Vice-Admiral *Evertſen*, with 8 *Dutch* Men of War, and 45 Merchant Ships of ſeveral Nations, that had been ſeparated in the Storm that happened in their Paſſage, and the *Turkey* Convoy, arrived; and ſo ſoon as he had diſpatched the ſaid Trade home, he put to Sea with the Squadron the 9th of that Month, in Obedience to the Commands he had received from His Majeſty; and when he had reached 50 Leagues S. W. by W. from *Cadiz*, he opened other Orders from the King; purſuant whereunto he made all the Sail he could to the Iſland of *Maderas*, where he was to be joined with ſome Ships under Command of Captain *George Meeze*, who acted as a Rear-Admiral for this Expedition. He ply'd off and on that Iſland 58 days, before any part of this Additional Strength from *England* arrived, and even then there was no more than the Rear-Admiral with his own Ship, and the *Briſtol*, and *Lightening* Fireſhip, that came in; the others, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, having been ſeparated in a Fog juſt as he left the *Iſle of Wight*; but the Place appointed for their joining being

Is joined, by ſome Dutch Men of War, and the Turky Convoy.

Sailing from Cadiz he opens the King's private Orders, and proceeds to Maderas.

He cruizes there a long time for Rear-Admiral Meeze.

He proceeds towards Barbadoes.

Barbadoes, the Vice-Admiral got to Sea, and ſtretch'd it away Southward, that ſo he might fall into the way of a Trade Wind; and being the firſt of *April* about 400 Leagues S. W. of *Madera*, he ſent the *Briſtol*, a good Sailer, to *Barbadoes*, with a Letter to the Governor, deſiring him to ſend a Sloop, or ſome proper Veſſel, to *Martinico*, to gain Intelligence of Monſieur *Ponty*, or any other conſiderable Force that the *French* might have there: And arriving himſelf at *Barbadoes* the 17th, he found all the Ships, except thoſe of the States General, and the *Goſport* and *Blaze* Fireſhip; and the Sloop was alſo returned from *Martinico*, with an Account that there was but two ſmall Ships there, judged to be Privateers. Not long after this the *Dutch* Ships and the *Goſport* joined him, ſo that after ſtaying a few days to take in Water, and to perform ſome other Matters that were neceſſary, he came to ſail, and bore away for *Antegoa*, the Place of Rendezvous, but kept an eaſie Sail, that ſo the *Dutch* Ships might come up with him, who had hooked ſome Rocks, and therefore could not readily get up their Anchors.

Arrives at Barbadoes.

Sails for Antegoa.

The 3d of *May*, 1697, he went on Shoar to adviſe with Colonel *Codrington*, Governor and Captain General of the

Lee-

Leeward Iſlands, who had Intelligence from *St. Thomas*'s, *Coraſſo*, and *Providence*, that the *French* did deſign to attack *St. Domingo*, and that, in order thereunto, they had for ſeveral Months paſt been cutting a Path through the Woods, that ſo they might march by Land thither from *Petit-Guavas*. *Conſults with General Codrington.*

The Vice-Admiral did hereupon conſult all the Officers, both *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, who agreed it was proper to ſail to *Punta de la Guada*, on the N.W. ſide of *Puerto-Rico*, for the better Security of the *Spaniſh* Fleet, (for that was a principal thing recommended to him by His Majeſty's Inſtructions) where it was uſual with them to ſtop to refreſh their Men; and it was determined to remain there till further Intelligence could be got of the Enemy; for had the Squadron gone to Leeward to *Jamaica*, they could not have beat it up time enough from thence to *St. Domingo*, or any other Place on *Hiſpaniola*. The ſame day whereon this Reſolution was taken he ſailed, and the next ſent one of the Frigats to *St. Thomas*'s (an Iſland belonging to the Crown of *Denmark*) for a Pilot to conduct her to *Puerto-Rico* for Intelligence, from whence ſhe was to return to *Punta de la Guada*, the Place of Rendezvous: And if the *A Council of War called, and agreed to ſail in ſearch of the Spaniſh Fleet.*

Squadron did not arrive there in ſeven days time, ſhe was to make the beſt of her way to *Jamaica*.

This Ship joined him on the 8th of *May*, 1697, and brought with her Mr. *Price*, who commanded an *Engliſh* Merchant Ship, taken by the *French*, which they carried to *Petit Guavas*, as alſo two *Spaniſh* Gentlemen, one of them the Lieutenant of the *Margareta Patach*, taken on the Coaſt of *Carraccoe*, and the other Lieutenant of the *Santa Chriſti*, Vice-Admiral of the *Barlavento* Fleet; who all ſaid, That Monſieur *Ponty* ſailed from *Petit Guavas* to Leeward the 11th of *March*, Old Stile, with 26 Ships, ſmall and great. This occaſioned a Council of War, by whom it was reſolved to proceed forthwith to *Jamaica*. Being off of the Eaſt End of that Iſland the 15th of *May*, 1697, the Vice-Admiral met with a Sloop, the Maſter whereof informed him there was a flying Report of the *French* Squadron's being before *Carthagena*; wherefore he ſtayed no longer than was abſolutely neceſſary to take in Water, but ſailed from *Port Royal*, and attempted to go out of the Leeward Chanel; but in that he was prevented by the dying away of the Land Breeze: And, contrary to the Knowledge of all

He receives Intelligence of Monſieur Ponty's *Squadron*

He heard a flying Report of Ponty's *being at* Carthagena.

all Perſons acquainted in thoſe Parts, the Sea Breeze blew for ſix days and nights together, during which time an *Engliſh* Sloop came in, that left *Porto Bello* the 18th of this Month, in Company of the Galleons, (which were 15 in number) and two days after parted with them, ſteering away N. N. E. for *Jamaica*, where they intended to take in Proviſions, for which they were ſo much ſtreightened, that they had not enough to carry them to the *Havana*. The Vice-Admiral ſent out two Sloops to look for them, the one off of the Keys of Point *Pedro*, and the other thoſe of *Porto Morant*, and to let their General know, That he was going to *Carthagena*, to ſee what could be done againſt the *French*; but that he would return to *Jamaica* in a ſhort time. *Had Advice of the Galleons.*

The 24th he took the Advantage of a ſmall Gale off Shoar, and getting clear of the Keys, ſteered away S. E. by S, and S. S. E, for *Carthagena*; and being the 27th about half Seas over, that part of his Squadron which was to Windward, made the Signal of ſeeing Ships ſtanding Weſtward; whereupon he immediately tack'd, and ſtood after them, with a preſt Sail, judging them to be either *French*, or the *Spaniſh* Galleons. Early the next day he diſcove- *In his Paſſage to Carthagena he meets with and chaſes Monſieur Ponty.*

red them to be Monſieur *Ponty*, with 10 Ships of War, and two Flyboats, and they were about three Leagues a-head, at which time he made the Signal for chaſing, and the *Warwick*, a Ship of 50 Guns, coming on the Broad-ſide of one of them, fired at her; but the *French* Ship wronging her very much in ſailing, got clear. Soon after this ſhe came up with a Fly-boat, loaden with Powder, Cannon Ball, Shells, and one Mortar, which Veſſel ſhe took: And our Squadron had by this time gained upon the Enemy; but the Wind coming to the N. E, they got to Windward; and in the afternoon the *Briſtol*, *Trydent*, *Goſport*, and *Newcaſtle*, being near them, they put themſelves into Order of Battel, and Monſieur *Ponty* himſelf fired ſeveral Shot at the *Briſtol*. Soon after it was judged that Monſieur *D'Labee*, who acted as Vice-Admiral, and another of their Ships, had a Deſign to leave them, as indeed it proved; for they were ſhot conſiderably a-head, and did not endeavour to cloſe the Line. Somewhat before 8 a Clock at night there happened a Squall of Wind, when our Ships neareſt the Enemy made a Signal that they had tack'd, upon which our whole

whole Squadron went about, and ſtood Southward all Night, with a ſtout Sail.

The next Morning, being the 29th of *May*, 1697, it began to blow freſh, and Monſieur *Ponty*, with 5 Sail more, was got about 6 or 7 Miles a-head of our Vice-Admiral, but ſome of our Ships were much nearer him; and the Chaſe being continued with a freſh Gale, which occaſioned a great Sea, the *Briſtol*, *Southampton*, and *Trydent*, loſt their Top-maſts, and the Vice-Admiral's own Ship, as well as that where Rear-Admiral *Meeſe* wore his Flag, ſprang their Fore-top-maſts: However they chaſed on all day, and in the evening the *Rupert*, *Goſport*, *Sunderland*, and *Colcheſter*, and a *Dutch* Ship of War, was not far from the Enemy, who, without tacking again, ſtood on Southward. *The Damages which our Ships received in their Maſts and Sails.*

The next Morning, ſo ſoon as 'twas light, Monſieur *Ponty* was ſeen with 5 Ships about 4 Miles a-head; but all ours were out of ſight of their Flag, except the *Sunderland*, *Pembroke*, and *Goſport*, and even they were conſiderably a-ſtern, by reaſon of the loſs of their Top-maſts; but as the Day came on others joined, and then it was found that the *Rupert*, *Colcheſter*, and a *Dutch* Ship,

Ship, had in the Night met with the like Misfortune.

Our Vice-Admiral weather'd and fore-reach'd upon Monſieur *Ponty* inſomuch that he made a Signal for his Ships that kept a better Wind than he did, to bear down to him; and the Vice-Admiral was once ſo near the Sternmoſt of them, that they had like to have come to blows. As the Day came on the Gale freſhned, and about Nine it blew hard, at which time the *Pembroke*'s Top-maſt came by the Board, and about 10 the Vice-Admiral's Main-ſail gave way in two places, ſo that he was forced to take it in, and repair it on the Yard.

The French perceiving our Misfortunes, ſhortned Sail to eaſe their Ships.

When the *French* ſaw theſe Misfortunes (of which they had no ſhare) they all took in their Fore-top-ſails; for being ſharp Ships, they could not well endure the great Sea that ran. The Vice-Admiral quickly ſet his Main-ſail again, but running up with the Enemy, the Clew of his Fore-ſail gave way, and the Sail it ſelf ſplit from Clew to Ear-ring, and ſoon after his Fore-top-ſail blew all in pieces; ſo that before other Sails could be brought to the Yards, the *French* were ſhot a great way a-head; but he made the Signal for the *Sunderland* and *Goſport* to keep ſight of them. The firſt of theſe Ships was no

ſooner

ſooner ſhot a-head of him, but her Main-top-maſt went by the Board, and the Weather-clew of her Fore-top-ſail fail'd: And the *Goſport* alſo ſprung her Fore-maſt. Through theſe Misfortunes, which followed ſo faſt one after the other, the *French* ſhot ſo far a-head that they could not be ſeen in the Night, nor was it known whether they tackt or bore up, or which way they ſtood, ſo that the Vice-Admiral kept on his Courſe Southward, but no more of his Squadron was in ſight the next Morning than the *Sunderland* and *Goſport*, and they a-ſtern. Theſe unlucky Accidents prevented the rich Booty's falling in our hands, which Monſieur *Ponty* had got together at the taking of *Carthagena*; and indeed it is ſomewhat Unaccountable, that our Ships ſhould only ſuffer in their Topmaſts and Sails.

The ſuppoſed Occaſions of our ſo great loſs of Maſts and Sails.

I know it has been alledged, that the Heat in thoſe Parts eats out all, or greateſt part of the Tar, and that thereby the Sails are weakned, and apt to ſplit even through the Seams; but certain it is, that they did as often rend in the very Canvas too: And if our Sails were made of as good Stuff, and work'd up as well, I ſee no reaſon why they ſhould not have proved as durable as thoſe of the *French*, who, being chaſed, were obliged

obliged to put theirs to as great a tryal, after they had been longer expoſed to the Heat of the Country. And as for the Top-maſts, I do believe that the loſs of them might chiefly proceed, from the not letting them down far enough to the Head of the lower Maſts; or rather, the not lengthning the Heads of thoſe low Maſts, that ſo one might have the greater hold of the other; a thing that has ſince been rectify'd.

The Vice-Admiral, having loſt the French, *ſteers for* Cartha-gena.

The Weather was at this time very cloſe, and the Vice-Admiral judging himſelf to be about 18 Leagues ſhort of *Carthagena*, the appointed Rendez-vous, he ſtood in for that Place, to pick up his ſhatter'd, ſtraggling Squa-dron, and in the Evening brought to within ſight of the Land, Rear-Admi-ral *Meeſe*, with ſix Ships more, then joining him, which likewiſe had all their Sails blown away.

Anchors at the Mouth of the Har-bour.

The next Day in the Evening, being the Firſt of *June*, he anchored before *Boca Chiga* Caſtle, the Entrance to *Car-thagena* Harbour, and about four Miles Northward of the Town; and ſeeing a great Breach, he concluded that the *French* had diſmantled and quitted it; but that he might be the better informed, he ſent in a Boat, with a Lieutenant and a *Spaniſh* Pilot, in the Night, who found

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in the Town no more than 40 *Spaniards*, Three or Four of whom were brought into the Squadron, and ſaid that the *French* had taken and quitted the Place; and that the People had all deſerted it for fear of the Privateers, who were gleaning up Monſieur *Ponty*'s leavings. Upon this the Vice-Admiral weighed, and came to an Anchor before the Town, offering to aſſiſt the Inhabitants with Men, Powder, Muskets, *&c.* But altho' the People began to flock into the Place, and did deſign to ſtay ſo long as the Squadron continued there, yet would not the Governor advance from the two Days journey he had made into the Country; and the People were ſo terrify'd by the Privateers, who, after Monſieur *Ponty* ſailed, put many to Torture, and did much Miſchief, that they declared they would not ſtay a Moment longer than the Squadron did.

The Condition he found the Town in.

The Cruelty of the Privateers, after Ponty ſailed.

At length the Governor took Courage, and coming into the Town the next Day, did at Night ſend his Lieutenant to the Vice-Admiral, letting him know he had not a Grain of Powder, no ſmall Arms, or ſo much as a Muſket-Ball; nor was it reaſonable to believe (conſidering how the *Spaniſh* Garriſons in thoſe Parts of the World,

The great want of Powder and Ammunition at Carthagena.

as

as well as at Home, are generally provided for) that he was over-ſtock'd when the Attempt was made; but notwithſtanding his preſent want, he (like a right *Spaniard*) neither condeſcended to ask for, or to purchaſe any. The Vice-Admiral ſent him word, That he was going that Night to Sea, being fearful that the Galleons were in danger, but that if the Winds did hang out of the way, he would ſpare him what he could.

The Vice-Admiral ſails from Cartha-gena.

The next Day at noon the Wind came Weſterly, and hearing nothing from the Governor, he weighed, and ſtood Eaſtward, leaving Orders for the Ships that were miſſing to follow him; and, on the 6th, diſcovering 8 Privateers under the Shore of *Sambay*, he ſent the *Colcheſter*, *Goſport*, *Virgin-Prize*, and *Lightning* Fireſhip, to deſtroy them, and then to ſtand over to Cape *Tibberoon*, the Place of Rendezvous; and not finding the Squadron there, they, and the other Ships miſſing, were ordered to repair to *Petit-Guavas*; but the Vice-Admiral being not able to fetch in with either of thoſe Places, proceeded to *Hiſpaniola*, and having taken a Privateer of 24 Guns off of the Iſland of *Navaſſa*, Weſtward of *Hiſpaniola*, which the *Colcheſter* had given

ven chaſe to, and burnt another of 12 Guns, that ran on ſhore near Cape *Dona Maria*, he Anchored the 19th of *June*, in order to Water and Wood; but 4 or 5 Days before, he ſent a Frigat to *St. Jago*, with a Letter to the Governor of the *Havana*, and another to the General of the Galleons, which floating Magazines of Silver were certainly in great want of Proviſions, otherwiſe they would not have ventured out of *Porto Bello*, knowing that they ſhould be obliged to come up as high as *Carthagena*, before they could ſtretch over and weather the Shoals: And as they did not come out more than two Days before Monſieur *Ponty* left *Carthagena*, or without knowledge of his being there; ſo is it not unreaſonable to believe, that he had Advice of their departure from *Porto Bello*, and that he was cruizing for them at the very time our Squadron met him and gave him chaſe.

He writes to the Governor of the Havana *and General of the Galleons.*

The Hazard the Galleons were in from Ponty's *Squadron.*

The 22d of *June*, 1697, the Vice-Admiral was inform'd by Sir *William Beeſton*, Governor of *Jamaica*, That it would be of great Service if he could deſtroy *Petit-Guavas*, which induced him to order Rear-Admiral *Meeſe* on that Expedition, with 9 Ships of the Squadron; of whoſe Proceedings there-

Rear-Admiral Meeſe *ſent with a Squadron to deſtroy* Petit-Guavas.

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in it is now a proper time to give the following Account. Before he arrived at *Petit-Guavas* he made a Detachment of about 900 Men from the Ships, 250 whereof he put into a Sloop, 100 on board a Fifth Rate Frigat, and the reſt into the Boats; and when he came within 16 or 17 Leagues of the Place, he left the two Ships, with Orders not to appear in ſight, but to get in early the next Morning: But finding he could not reach the Port himſelf that Night, he ordered the ſaid Ships not to come in till the next Day.

Our People land at Petit-Guavas, *and make themſelves Maſters of it.*

On *Monday* the 28th of *June*, at half an Hour after Three in the Morning, he landed with Colonel *Kirkby*, Captain *Lytcot*, Captain *Holmes*, Captain *Julius*, Captain *Elliot*, and Captain *Moore*, and 400 Men, a Mile Eaſtward of *Petit-Guavas*, and marched directly to the Town; the Sloop, and ſome of the Boats, that had about 100 of the Men, not being able to keep up with him. He thought it would be much more eaſie to take the Place by Surprize, with the Men he had, than to diſcover himſelf by ſtaying for the reſt, and therefore enter'd it juſt at dawn of Day, and marched directly to, and immediately took the Grand Guard. When this was done, he ſent 100 Men to ſecure

ſecure two Batteries of four Guns each; and whilſt the ſame was executing, moſt of the *French* quitted the Town.

Soon after the Sun was up, the Sailers began to be ſo unruly, that nothing could divert them from Plundering, and in an Hour or two the moſt of them were ſo drunk, that notwithſtanding the well-laid Deſign of the Rear-Admiral, to make himſelf, and them Maſters of the Plunder, by appointing a Captain, and ſome pick'd Men, to begin at each end of the Town, and ſo to have met one another, he was conſtrain'd to ſet fire to the Place much ſooner than he intended, otherwiſe he could not have depended on ſo Sober and Serviceable Men; inſomuch that nothing was carried off but a few Negroes, and other inconſiderable Things, though it was reported (how truly I cannot ſay) that, two Days before, four Mules came into the Town, loaden with Gold and Silver from the Iſle of *Aſs*, part of what the Privateers brought from *Carthagena*.

The Diſorders of the Sailers prevent the carrying off the Plunder.

Our Officers and Men behaved themſelves with Bravery on this Occaſion, the latter having chearfully rowed many Leagues in that hot Country; and it was great pity, that their Ungovernableneſs robbed both themſelves and

their Officers, of what would have ſufficiently made them amends for their Fatigue.

Having thus taken up a little of your time concerning *Petit-Guavas*, I will yet farther intrude on your Patience, by giving you a ſhort Account of the Manner of Monſieur *Ponty's* attacking *Carthagena*.

The Manner of Monſieur Ponty's attacking Carthagena.

On the 13th of *April*, 1697, he appeared before the Place, with 26 Ships, great and ſmall, and bombarded it till 10 in the Morning on the 15th. Then he attack'd the Caſtle of *Boco Chiga*, with three Ships, and 2000 Men and two Mortars, by Land, and about Five in the Afternoon he made himſelf Maſter of it. The next Day the Fleet entering the Bay, he ſent 2400 Men to the Caſtle of *Boca Grande*, which was found deſerted. The 17th they landed on *Terra Firma*, and attack'd and diſperſed 240 Mulatto's, who defended themſelves very well: After which they march'd to a Hill called *De la Papa*, where they planted their Colours. On the 18th they attack'd the Fort called *St. Lazar*'s, at the Foot of the ſaid Hill, and after four vigorous Aſſaults, the Defendants retir'd to the Town. The 20th, 21ſt, and 22d, they batter'd the Suburb

Suburb called *Gigimany*, by the Half-Moon at *Iſland Gate*, but on the 23d and 24th they ceaſed firing, by reaſon they were employ'd in planting 5 Mortars, and 24 great Guns, with which they batter'd the Fortifications the 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th; and having opened a great Breach, they took in the Suburb the 29th, after a handſome Defence; immediately after which they battered the Walls of the Town with Guns from the Ships and the Shore, and with Mortars; whereupon the Alderman (the Civil Magiſtrate of the Place) finding the City ſo briskly attacked, propoſed its being deliver'd up, but the Governor refuſed, and began to make inward Works to reſiſt the Aſſaults: Nevertheleſs, coming ſoon after to a Parley, he was prevail'd with, and Monſieur *Ponty* and Monſieur *Du Caſſe*, concluded the Capitulations; which was, "That the Governor ſhould march out "on Horſeback, with two Field-pieces, "the Garriſon with their Arms, and "the Men, Women, and Children, "with all the Clothes they could "carry.

The 2d of *May*, 1697, the *French* took poſſeſſion of the City, and ſo civil were they to the Inhabitants, that they executed a Soldier for attempting

to take a Ring from a Mulato Woman. What Riches they met with is variouſly reported; but I am apt to think, if fell ſhort of the Ten Millions, which 'tis ſaid they carried away.

I return now to Vice-Admiral *Nevil*, who having Wooded and Watered the Ships, got under Sail the 29th of *June*, to meet Rear-Admiral *Meeſe*, who join'd him the next Day; and then he ſtood for *Jamaica*, that he might get the Ships from thence, and proceed directly for the *Havana*, in ſearch of the Galleons, of whom he had not yet any certain Account.

The 11th of *July* he made the Iſle of *Pines*; the 13th he came up with Cape *St. Anthony*'s, the Weſt of *Cuba*, and the 16th he got about the *Colorados*; but the Fleet was at this time very Sickly, and the next Day Rear-Admiral *Meeſe* died.

Rear-Admiral Meeſe *dies.*

The Squadron arriving at the *Havana* the 22d of *July*, 1697, the Vice-Admiral acquainted the Governor, That he was in great want of Water and Refreſhments, and therefore deſired permiſſion to come into the Port, that ſo he might make proviſion for his Voyage to *Cadiz*, to which place he deſign'd (according to his Inſtructions) to ſee the Galleons in ſafety. This he was not

The Vice-Admiral comes to the Havana, *and is denied Water and Refreſhments by the* Spaniards.

not only refuſed, but almoſt every thing he requeſted; the *Don* alledging, That the King his Maſter's Inſtructions would not juſtifie his permitting the Squadron to come into that Port; but that if he would repair to *Mutanſes*, (a Place where there was not depth of Water for his Ships) he would endeavour to ſupply his wants; but yet doubted his capacity to do it effectually, ſince the Galleons had already very much drein'd the Place of Proviſions.

The Vice-Admiral acquaints the General of the Galleons that he had Orders to Convoy them Home.

The Vice-Admiral writ alſo to the General of the Galleons, letting him know that the Squadron he commanded was ſent chiefly to ſecure thoſe rich Imbarcations, and to conduct them ſafe to *Cadix*; but he was pleaſed to anſwer, That he had received no Orders of that nature from the King of *Spain*, and was therefore obliged to follow thoſe he had; but that he was ſorry he could not have the Opportunity of accompanying him.

His Anſwer.

It cannot be thought but that this Treatment was very ſurprizing; nor, poſſibly, ſhould I be much in the wrong, if I judge that the uſual Jealouſie of the *Spaniard* gave them Apprehenſions, that our Ships would endeavour not only to make themſelves Maſters of the Place, but the Galleons too. In fine, the Vice-Admiral

finding that nothing could be had here, put the Ships into the beſt Condition that poſſibly he could, and ſailed for *Virginia*, where he died the 27th of *Auguſt*, 1697, occaſion'd, as I am apt to believe, as much through the Grief and Vexation this Expedition had expoſed him to, as of any Natural Diſtemper. By his Death, and the Rear-Admiral's, the Command of the Squadron devolved on Captain *Thomas Dilkes*, and he having done all that poſſibly he could towards refreſhing the Men, and procuring Proviſions, ſailed from *Virginia*, and arrived in *England* the 24th of *October*, with part of the Squadron, the reſt, that were ſeparated in bad Weather, dropping in both before and after.

The Squadron ſails for Virginia, *and the Vice-Admiral dies.*

Captain Dilkes *proceeds home with the Ships.*

Monſieur *Pointy* having narrowly eſcaped Vice-Admiral *Nevil's* Squadron, got not to *Breſt* without running the hazard of being twice more intercepted, firſt at *Newfoundland* by Captain *Norris*, and afterwards in the *Soundings*, by a Squadron commanded by Captain *Harlow*, with which he Engaged. For coming to *Newfoundland* (the firſt Place he touch'd at after he left the *Weſt-Indies*) Captain *Norris*, who commanded a Squadron of our Ships there, had Intelligence that ſeveral

Monſieur Pointy *comes with his Squadron to* Newfoundland, *where we had alſo a Squadron commanded by Captain* Norris.

ral *French* Men of War were ſeen off of *Cape-Land* Bay; which was confirmed the next Day by ſeveral Fiſhing People; and Guns were heard both by Day and Night. But it being believed that this was Monſieur *Neſmond*'s Squadron, or part thereof, two Bombs were laid croſs the Harbour of *St. John's*, and the Squadron put into a Line of Battel, which was compoſed of four Fourth Rates, two Fifth, two Sixths, two Fireſhips, and two Bomb-Veſſels, with a Hag-boat. Colonel *Gibſon*'s Regiment, that was carried by the Squadron from *England*, were embarked, and ſeveral Guns mounted on the Batteries aſhore; and five Ships were ſeen the 23d, about four Leagues into the Sea, which in the Evening ſtood in for *Conception* Bay.

We believing them to be Monſieur Neſmond, provide for the ſafety of S. John's

A Council of War was called the next Day, of the Sea and Land-Officers, by whom it was agreed to continue in the Harbour of *St. John's*, and the *Mary* Galley, being clean, was ſent out to diſcover them. About Noon news came from *Carboniere*, that five *French* Men of War were ſeen off of that Port; and another Conſultation being thereupon held, the Majority were ſtill for continuing at *St. John's*: But Captain *Norris* was for going in ſearch of them,

A Council of War agree to continue at St. John's.

The French ſeen off Carboniere, but reſolved ſtill to continue at S. John's tho' Captain Norris was of a contrary Opinion.

being of Opinion, that if thoſe 5 Ships in *Conception* Bay had any Communication with others at Sea, it would have been diſcovered from Cape *St. Francis*, or *Baccallio*, if within 15 Leagues one of the other; and that if they had any deſign to attack *St. John's* by Land, he muſt have had notice of their Forces being put on Shore.

Mr Cumberbatch gives an Account of the French Squadron

The next Day he received a Letter from Mr. *Alexander Cumberbatch*, Maſter of a Ship taken by the *French*, and ſent on Shore to aſſiſt in getting them freſh Proviſions, by which he was informed, that Monſieur *Pouay* was in *Conception* Bay, with 5 Ships from 50 to 60 Guns, very richly loaden with the Spoil of *Carthagena*. This Notice he ſent him in hopes it might be ſerviceable to his Country, and adviſed him withal, to be very expeditious in attacking them, for that they were but weakly Man'd.

A Council of War ſuſpects Cumberbatch and again determine to remain at St. John's.

A general Council of War was hereupon called, where it was voted, That there was reaſon to believe Monſieur *Neſmond* was come to *Newfoundland* with a Squadron, and that *Cumberbatch* was ſent on Shore by him to enſnare them; becauſe in his Letter he ſaid he was to return to the *French* Ships; ſo that it was again determined to continue at *St. John's*: for that by attacking the

the Ships in *Conception* Bay, *Naſmond* might have had opportunity of making himſelf Maſter of *St. John's*, and conſequently of the whole Country; but the Commadore, Captain *Norris*, was ſtill for going to Sea, for his former Reaſons.

The 26th at Noon there was Intelligence, That the 5 *French* Ships were ſeen the Night before at Anchor a little Eaſtward of *Bell* Iſle, by *Portugal Cove*; and the next Day, upon a Meſſage from Colonel *Gibſon*, there was another Conſultation, where this Intelligence was read; but it was reſolved to remain till the two Captains arrived, who were ſent to make a Diſcovery. Soon after one of them came, with 22 *French*-Men, that he had taken in a Boat at *Carboniere*, who ſaid they were ſent by Monſieur *Pontis* to procure freſh Proviſions. The other Captain returned alſo from *Portugal Cove*, who ſaw the *French* Ships at Anchor, one of them of 3 Decks, two from 60 to 70 Guns, and two more about 50. The Court adjourned till the next Morning, and then calling the Priſoners before them, they related all they knew, fearing that otherwiſe they ſhould be very ill treated. They ſaid the Squadron had not been at any other Port ſince they left the *Weſt-Indies*, and that Mon-

Intelligence of the French Squadron by Officers ſent on purpoſe.

Account of the Squadron by Priſoners taken.

Monſieur *Ponty* hearing of Vice-Admiral *Nevil's* being in thoſe Parts, appointed the Rendezvous at *St. Peter's*, or *Placentia*, in *Newfoundland*; but not making the Iſland about *Placentia* plain, by reaſon of thick Weather, the firſt Place they dropt Anchor at was *Conception* Bay. While the Council of War was ſitting Captain *Desborow* arrived, and gave them an Account, That the *French* Ships lay under their Topſails, plying up and down in the Bay; but that being about five Miles off from them, he could not well diſcover their Force. Notwithſtanding all this, the Majority of the Council of War were ſtill of Opinion, That Monſieur *Neſmond* (who had ſailed from *France* a conſiderable time before, with 11 Ships of War and 3 Fireſhips) was on the Coaſt, and therefore, contrary to the Opinion of Captain *Norris*, determined not to purſue the *French*; for that the Port of *St. John's* might thereby be expoſed to eminent Danger, by ſeparating the Ships and the Land Forces: And had not the latter been there, or at leaſt not been empowered to ſit at Councils of War, 'tis probable there might have been a better Account given of the Enemy; for the Land Officers, at leaſt ſeveral of them, were unwilling to leave

Captain Desborow's Account.

A Council of War believe Monſieur Neſmond *on the Coaſt, and therefore reſolve not to ſtir.*

St.

St. John's, a Place which they were directed particularly to endeavour to protect.

Captain *Desborow* was again ſent out to obſerve the Enemy's Motion, with Orders to bring early Advice thereof; and returning the 31ſt at Noon, he declared, That the 28th at Midnight he ſaw 4 Sail under his Lee-Bow, which he made to be *French*; that ſoon after the Stern-moſt Ship fired a Gun, and then made ſeveral falſe Fires; upon which the Lights were inſtantly put out, ſo that he loſt ſight of them. That at two in the Morning he ſtood Northward, with little Wind at N.N.E, and not ſeeing any Ships when the Day appeared, made the beſt of his way into *Carboniere*; but the Wind veering at Noon to S.S.W, the Current had ſet him, by the 29th at Night, between *Harbour Grace* Iſland and that of *Carboniere*, but that ſo ſoon as the Breeze came on, he made the beſt of his way to *St. John's*. He was immediately ſent out a third time, with Orders to ſail right into the Sea till he came on the Bank of *Newfoundland*, and if he did not ſee the aforeſaid Ships, or any other Squadron, to repair to Cape *Race*, and endeavour to gain Intelligence from *Placentia*. The 9th of *Auguſt* in the Mor-

Captain Desborow is again ſent out, and brings Intelligence.

Morning he returned, and related, That about 12 at Night, on the *Saturday* before, he ſaw ſeveral Lights to Windward; that at two a Clock four of the Ships fired 3 Guns each, and then tackt and ſtood off Shoar; whereupon he made Sail, and kept his Wind, in order to get under Cape *Race*, the Wind being then at W. by S, but tackt ſo ſoon as 'twas Light, and ſtood within three times Gun-ſhot of the headmoſt, and then laid by and looked on them. He made them to be 15 in all, the Admiral a Three Deck Ship, four of about 80 Guns, 6 from 70 to 60, two of 50, and the other three either Frigats or Fireſhips. When he had view'd them well he wore his Ship, and brought to towards the Shoar, but the Enemy's Squadron tacking at ſix a Clock, and ſtanding off, he followed them, which they perceiving, one of them ſtood in towards the Shoar to cut him off from the Cape.

A Squadron of 15 Ships appear off St. John's *with* 3 *Swallow Tayl'd Flags.*

The 18th in the Morning this Squadron came off the Harbour of *St. John*'s, which was about 32 Days after the firſt Notice of Monſieur *Ponty*'s being at *Newfoundland*. They were in all 15, with three Swallow-Tayl'd Flags, 10 of them Ships from 50 to 70 Guns, the other either Fireſhips or ſmall Frigats,

as

as Captain *Desborow* had reported. They viewed our Ships, and then ſtood off upon a Wind; but at Noon, the Wind caſting into the Harbour, they tackt and ſtood in, and the Wind ſoon after taking them ſhort, they laid their Heads off and brought to, and were not ſeen again till the 23d about Noon, when 12 of them were diſcover'd about 7 Leagues out at Sea; and that was the laſt ſight of them.

The Method taken to defend our Ships, and the Harbour.

The Method that was taken to defend our ſelves was this; All the Men of War lay in a Half-Moon to the Harbour's Mouth, and each Ship's Broadſide commanded the two Booms: Colonel *Gibſon*'s Regiment was poſted at the two Batteries, and about the Harbour's Mouth, and Captain *Richards* (who was the Engineer for fortifying the Harbour) was making ſuch Works as he judged neceſſary on this occaſion; and that the Squadron might be the better able to do Service, all the Men were taken from the Merchant Ships, and put on board them.

Having thus informed you in what manner Monſieur *Ponty*, with his rich Squadron, eſcaped Vice-Admiral *Nevil* in the *Weſt-Indies*, and Captain *Norris* at *Newfoundland*; it remains that I follow him to *Breſt*, and let you know what

what paſt upon his encountering the Ships commanded by Captain *Harlow* in the *Soundings*.

Captain Harlow meets with Monſieur Ponty in the Soundings.

The 14th of *Auguſt*, 1697, Captain *Harlow*, with a Squadron of ſix Ships and a Fireſhip, *viz.* two of 80 Guns, two of 70, and one of 30, was about 90 Leagues W. S. W. from *Scilly*, and one of the Ships, the *Defiance*, made the Signal of ſeeing Lights to Windward. As the Day came on five Sail were diſcover'd; which about 8 in the Morning bore down, while our Squadron ply'd up to them, and endeavoured to get into a Line of Battel; and thereupon the *Betty*, a Fifth Rate, that was ſent to make what they were, returned to her proper Station.

Monſieur *Ponty* having view'd our Squadron, thought it convenient to make ſome Alterations in his Line, by changing the Ships, but yet bore down with all the Sail he could, and brought to, about two in the Afternoon, out of Gun-ſhot. He continued not long in that Poſture, but bore down again, and worked his Ships as if he did intend to preſs the Van of our Squadron; upon which Captain *Harlow* ſent to the *Devonſhire* to fill and ſtand away upon a Wind, that ſhe might the better fall in with Monſieur *Ponty*, who about three

three in the Afternoon brought to directly againſt him, within two thirds Gun-ſhot, and began the Fight.

After the Squadrons had engaged about two hours, the *French* made the Signal for Tacking; but there was little Wind, which made them all refuſe ſtaying, unleſs the Ship that was oppoſite to the *Defiance*; and ſhe having the head of her Main-top-maſt ſhot away, which occaſion'd the Yard's falling down to the Slings, ſet her Main-ſail, and, not without great difficulty, wore, and then keeping her Wind, ſtood out of the Line, which put Monſieur *Ponty* himſelf in ſome diſorder; but tho' he was conſtrained to bear up for her, yet he ſoon cloſed the Line again. *They Engage.*

About ſix in the Evening the Gale freſhened, and ſhifted from W. by S. to S. W. by S, and S. S. W; whereupon the Enemy tackt, and our Commadore made the Signal for his Rear to tack alſo; and ſetting his Main-ſail, that he might be ſure of ſtaying, he was no ſooner about, but he made all the Sail he could after them, and they from him; but in the Night we loſt ſight of them, tho' we did, between 8 and 9, diſcover ſome of their Lights, and by that means had an opportunity of ſteering after them, they bearing then N. E. *The French retire.*

and

and N. E. by N; but between 10 and 11 they were all out of ſight: Wherefore Captain *Harlow* ſtood away between the N. E. and E, with an eaſie Sail, that ſo ſome of the Ships very far a-ſtern might come up with him.

The next Morning between four and five, the Weather being very clear, the Enemy were ſeen between the S. E. by E. and E. S. E, three or four Leagues off; and the Wind being variable between the S. and S. W, but a gentle Gale, all Sails were ſet, and the Chaſe continued till Evening, at which time they were much at the ſame diſtance as in the Morning; but ſo much did they wrong our Ships in ſailing, that they could, at Pleaſure, lower a Yard or a Topmaſt, to prevent their coming by the Board; and this was occaſion'd by our Ships being foulet than theirs, notwithſtanding they came from ſo long a Voyage; for undoubtedly they made a ſhift to heel and ſcrub them in the beſt manner they could when a-broad.

The French wrong us very much in ſailing.

The next Morning early they were a-head of us about 4 or 5 Miles, and as ſoon as they diſcovered us, they let out the Reifs of all their great Sails, and ſet all their ſmall ones; and tho when they firſt made from us, their Hulls

Hulls could be ſeen down to the Water-Line, yet in ſix hours time they ran ſo much out of ſight, that not above half their Top-ſails could be diſcovered above Water; inſomuch that 'twas believed they went away with an eaſie Sail the Night before.

About 11 a Clock it blew freſh, and enclined to be thick and hazey; and Captain *Harlow* ſeeing no poſſibility of coming up with them, he brought to.

Thus did Monſieur *Ponti* fortunately eſcape the third time, and without farther Interruption carried the Spoil of the *Spaniards* into *Breſt*. What it was that induced him to bear down and engage our Ships is uncertain to me; for thô the Squadrons were almoſt equal, as to Strength, yet conſidering the Riches he had on board, I think he ought, in Prudence, to have declined a Battel; which in all probability he might have done, ſince (as it afterwards proved) his Ships were much too nimble for ours. *Obſervation about his engaging our Squadron.*

I ſhall now return to the Body of the Fleet in the Year 1697, of which Sir *George Rooke* was appointed Admiral. With the great Ships he arrived off of the *South Foreland* the 2d of *June*, and intended to ſtop Tides from thence to *Spithead*; but being the next

day at Anchor off of *Dover*, a ſtrong South Weſt Wind obliged him to return to the *Downes*.

Sir Geo. Rooke arrives with the Fleet at St. Hellens.

Setting Sail again, he arrived at *St. Hellen's* the 10th, in the evening, and there he met Rear-Admiral *Naſſau*, with 10 *Dutch* Ships of War, who was firſt to convoy ſeveral Merchants to *Holland*, and then to return and join the Fleet.

A Council of War reſolve to proceed to Sea, with as many Ships as could be Manned and Victualled.

The 14th a Council of War was called, where was preſent Sir *Cloudeſly Shovell*, Admiral of the Blue, Vice-Admiral *Aylmer*, and Vice-Admiral *Mitchell*. It was agreed, That ſince there was great want of Men and Proviſions, and a very ſmall proſpect of a ſudden Supply, ſo many Ships ſhould proceed to Sea as could be manned up to their middle Complements, and that the Ships unmann'd for the doing thereof, ſhould ſecure themſelves in *Portſmouth* Harbour: And the next day, at another Conſultation, where was alſo preſent the *Dutch* Admiral, Vice-Admiral *Callemberg*, Rear-Admiral *Neuys*, and Captain *Bokenham*, it was reſolved to proceed off of *Uſhant* for Intelligence, and thence to remove as a Council of War ſhould think moſt adviſeable.

There

There was a great want of ſmall Frigats, and other proper Veſſels, to prevent the Enemy's Snaws diſcovering the Weakneſs of our Squadron; for although the intended Fleet, when all together, would have made up 47 *Engliſh*, and 23 *Dutch*, of the Line of Battel, beſides 17 Fireſhips, and other ſmall Craft; yet was there, at this time, 43 of thoſe 70 Ships abſent on the following Services, *viz.*

A great want of ſmall Frigats.

	RATES.				
	1ſt.	2d.	3d.	4th.	
With Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* in the *Soundings*,	1	0	8	0	*Ships abſent from the Fleet on other Services.*
With Captain *Beaumont* in the *North Sea*,	0	0	4	0	
With Rear-Admiral *Benbow* in the *Soundings*,	0	0	1	1	
Off of Cape *de Hague*,	0	0	1	0	
Convoy between the *Downes* and *Falmouth*,	0	0	1	0	
At *Woolwich*,	0	0	0	1	
At *Hudſon's* Bay,	0	0	0	1	
On the Fiſhery,	0	0	0	1	
At *Hull*,	0	0	1	0	
Between the Iſle of *Wight* and *Portland*,	0	0	0	1	
At the *Nore*,	0	0	1	0	
Unmann'd at *Blackſtakes*,	0	3	0	0	
Unmann'd at *Portſmouth*,	0	3	3	0	
Engliſh	1	6	20	3	

	RATES.			
	1ſt.	2d.	3d.	4th.
With Rear-Admiral *Naſſau* on the Coaſt of *Holland*,	0	8	1	0
Expected from *North-Holland*,	0	1	1	0
Dutch —	0	9	2	0
	1	6	20	5
In all, *Dutch* and *Engliſh* —	1	15	22	5

Rear-Admiral Naſſau *joined the Fleet.*

So that had not Rear-Admiral *Naſſau* joined with the 10 Ships before mentioned, there could not have gone to Sea more than 35 Ships, great and ſmall; nor was the Fleet at this time victualled with more than a Month's Bread and Beer, a very little more Butter and Cheeſe, ſomewhat above two Months Fleſh, but not a Fortnight's Peaſe and Oatmeal. However Orders were ſent, That the Ships which were ready ſhould proceed to Sea, which was but 33, *Dutch* and *Engliſh*, and 8 Fireſhips, beſides the Ships in the *Soundings* with Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* and Rear-Admiral *Benbow*, which join'd the Fleet the 25th of *June* off of *Plimouth*; ſo that now the Admiral had 44 Ships

Vice Admiral Mitchell, *and Rear-Admiral* Benbow, *alſo come in from the* Soundings.

of

of the Line, and with them he got off of *Uſhant* the 28th; but the Calms prevented his laying hold of that Coaſt till the 4th of the next Month, at which time Rear-Admiral *Benbow*, who had been ſent to diſcover the poſture of the Enemy at *Breſt*, brought an Account, that there was but 10 Ships armed and ready for the Sea.

But ten Ships at Breſt ready for the Sea.

A Council of War was thereupon called, and 'twas reſolved to enlarge the former Station from 10 to 40 or 50 Leagues W. N. W. from *Uſhant*, thereby to cover the Chanel, and ſecure the Trade; and that 9 *Engliſh*, and 4 *Dutch* Ships of War, ſhould cruize from 80 to 100 Leagues Weſt from *Scilly* 14 or 16 days; and that after the Fleet had continued in the aforeſaid Station 10 or 12 days, the whole ſhould rendezvous in *Torbay*. Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* commanded this Squadron, and it was made ſo ſtrong, leſt he ſhould happen to meet with Monſieur *Neſmonde* in his Cruize, or Monſieur *Chateau Renault* in his Return to *Breſt*.

The Station reſolved on at a Council of War.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell *detached with a Squadron.*

The 21ſt of *July*, 1697, the Fleet was 10 Leagues off of the *Lizard*, and had meet nothing in the Cruize but Privateers. The Admiral received Orders to leave a ſufficient Squadron off

of *Breſt*, to keep in the *French* Ships deſigned from thence with Monſieur *Chateau Renault*, if not ſailed, or to intercept them coming out: But this could not be complied with, becauſe there was not in a Body above eleven *Engliſh* Men of War, of which ten were three Deck Ships, and but ten *Dutch*, Flagſhips included; nor had they more than 21 days Proviſions at ſhort Allowance, and no Peaſe or Oatmeal; ſo that they were obliged to return to *Torbay*, where, on the 23d of *July*, the Admiral received a ſecond Order to ſend Ships off of *Breſt*, and others into the Bay; to comply with which he ordered 11 Third Rates, and two Fireſhips, to be victualled for a Month; but was conſtrained to drain the great Ships for the ſame: Inſomuch that had there been never ſo preſſing an Occaſion of Service, it would inevitably have been prevented, for want of a timely Supply of Proviſions.

The Fleet returns to Torbay.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell *returns to* Torbay.

Two days after Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* appeared working into the Bay; but he had ſent from his Squadron two Third Rates, and a Fifth, to convoy the Trade to *Ireland*, and the *Dorſetſhire* and *Content* to ſee ſome others ſafe to *Plimouth*: And having received Advice

vice that a conſiderable Fleet of Merchant Ships was expected in the Chanel, he ſent four Third Rates, one Fifth, and a Fireſhip, under Command of Captain *Harlow*, to cruize for their Security; who, during his ſaid Cruize, met with Monſieur *Pouty* in his paſſage to *Breſt*, of whoſe Engagement I have already given an Account; and choſe ſo to do, that the whole Proceedings of that *French* Squadron, in their Expedition to and from *Carthagena*, might lie before you entire.

The Admiral found that by drawing Proviſions from the great Ships for thoſe deſigned to *Breſt*, it would ſo much reduce them, as that, without a ſpeedy ſupply, they might be brought to great Neceſſity, and therefore he contradicted the Orders he had given therein, and propoſed to the Lords of the Admiralty that the Squadron might repair to, and Victual at *Spithead*.

Nevertheleſs a Squadron was ſent out, and cruiz'd for ſome time in the *Soundings*, but were by bad Weather forced in; and according to the Orders which were ſent to the Admiral, he ſail'd from *Torbay*, and arrived at *Spithead* the 28th of *Auguſt*, with five Firſt Rates, four Seconds, two Thirds, two Fireſhips, two Hoſpital Ships, and two *The Fleet comes to Spithead*

Yachts, together with 12 *Dutch* Ships of War, and as many Fireſhips.

Vice Admiral Mitchell *order'd with a Squadron as far as Cape* St. Vincent *to look out for Vice-Admiral* Nevil.

Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* was again appointed to Command a Squadron of 8 Third Rates, 6 Fourths, and 3 Fifths, together with Count *Naſſau*, with 6 *Dutch* Ships of War and two Fireſhips, and received Orders in *Torbay* the 9th of *September*, 1697, (the very Day he arrived there) to proceed with the ſaid Squadron to Cape *St. Vincent* in *Portugal*, there being advice that the *French* were gone or going to Sea. The deſign of his proceeding thus far, was to ſuſtain Vice-Admiral *Nevil*, in caſe the Galleons ſhould have come under his Protection, as well as the Trade from *Cadiz*. Wherefore, when he arrived off of that Cape, he was ordered to ſend a Ship to the ſaid Port, with Directions to the Commander in Chief of the Ships there, to put to Sea within three Days after his receipt of ſuch Directions, and join him; and when ſo join'd, he was to make the beſt of his way to *England*; but in caſe he met with the *Cadiz* Fleet in his paſſage, he was to return with them; and to do the ſame without them, if he received advice by the Frigat that they were ſailed from *Cadiz*, and he judged they were paſs'd by him. But if, during his ſtay off

Cape

Cape *St. Vincent*, he met with Vice-Admiral *Nevil* in his paſſage from the *Weſt-Indies*, with the Galleons, he was to accompany them as far as *Cadiz*: And a farther Proviſion was yet made, if he met with the Galleons while the *Cadiz* Squadron was with him; for, in that caſe, he was ſo to diſpoſe of the Ships under his Command, as might moſt contribute to the Security of both; but himſelf was to return to *England* with the Trade.

The Squadron in great want of Proviſions, eſpecially the Dutch.

Theſe Orders the Vice-Admiral communicated to Rear-Admiral *Naſſau*, who having at that time none from the King, and being not Victualled longer than to the laſt of the following Month, could not proceed; nor had the *Engliſh* Ships more than for two Months, if all Species proved good: And indeed the Scarcity of Proviſions did too often, throughout the whole Courſe of the War, obſtruct many Services. But as I ſhall not take upon me to blame any particular Perſon, or Body of Men, on on this Account; yet ſure I am, That unleſs effectual care be taken another War, to have a ſufficient ſtock of Proviſions in a conſtant Readineſs to anſwer all unforeſeen Occaſions of Service, we ſhall ſufficiently, and perhaps too ſoon, find the great Inconveniencies that will attend it.

This

The Vice-Admiral is ordered to proceed ſo far towards Cape St. Vincent *as to have Proviſions to bring him back again.*

This Scarcity of Proviſions being repreſented to the Lords of the Admiralty, their Lordſhips ſent him Orders to proceed with the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships, ſo far towards Cape *St. Vincent*, in order to meet the Trade from *Cadiz*, as that he might have Proviſions left ſufficient to bring him back again; upon which it was agreed, by himſelf and the *Dutch* Flag Officer, to ſail 100 Leagues S. W. from *Scilly*, provided it could be accompliſhed by the Firſt of *October*, for no longer would the Victuals on board the *Dutch* Ships permit them to ſtay abroad: But if WeſterlyWinds prevented their reaching the aforeſaid Station, by or before that time, it was thought moſt adviſeable to proceed 50 Leagues S. W. from *Seilly*, and to continue there till the 8th of *October*; and failing in that, to repair 28 Leagues W.S.W, and after lying in that Station till the 15th of *October*, to rendezvous at *Spithead*.

His own and the Dutch *Flag's Reſolution thereupon*

He receives advice of Vice-Admiral Nevil.

The 17th, the Vice-Admiral received Advice from the Captain of the *Shrewsbury* Galley, that Vice-Admiral *Nevil* had been at, and was returned from the *Havana* without the Galleons, or being admitted by the *Spaniſh* Governor ſo much as to Water his Ships there; but having already given a particular

Ac-

Account of that whole Matter, I proceed to inform you, that notwithſtanding the aforegoing Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral *Mitchell*, others were ſent to him the 18th Day of the ſame Month of *Auguſt*, to remain no longer at Sea than 20 Days, in expectation of the *Cadiz* Fleet; and thereupon it was agreed between him and the *Dutch* Flag, that the Squadron ſhould proceed 40 Leagues W. by S. from *Scilly*, and remain there till the 8th of *October*.

He is order'd to ſtay at Sea but 20 Days.

The 24th of *September* he ſailed from *Torbay*, with fair Weather, and the Wind at N. W. by N, but being off of the *Start* about 10 at Night, it ſhifted to S. and S. S. W, and blew hard with much Rain. He was at this time near the Shore, and conſequently met with much difficulty to get into *Torbay*, and moſt of the Ships received conſiderable Damage in their Sails. The next Day he received Orders to remain there, but the 9th of *October* others were ſent him by Expreſs, by which he was directed to proceed to Sea, either with or without the Ships of the States General, for protecting the *Cadiz* Fleet, and to continue out ſo long as his Proviſions would laſt, which it would not do above 28 Days, at two Thirds of the uſual Allowance. Theſe

Is oblig'd to come to Torbay, but order'd to Sea again.

Theſe Orders were occaſion'd upon advice of Monſieur *Chateau Renault*'s being at Sea with a Squadron, and that divers Privateers were lurking up and down the Chanel to pick up our Trade.

Vice-Admiral Mitchell *proceeds into the* Soundings.

The 10th of *October*, 1697, the Squadron got under Sail, and the 15th at Night, about 25 Leagues N.E. by E. from *Scilly*, the Vice-Admiral parted with the *Captain*, and a *Dutch Eaſt-India* Ship called the *Naſſau*, and ſome ſmall Veſſels bound Southward. He continued to cruize from 25 to 40 Leagues S. W. by W. from *Scilly* till the 23d, but had not the good Fortune to meet with the *Cadiz* Fleet; ſo that his Proviſions growing ſhort, he thought it neceſſary to repair to *St. Hellens*, where he Anchored the 27th at Night, and luckily there met him, and came in his Company, 15 *Dutch Eaſt-India* Ships, which had ſpent almoſt all their Proviſions, and loſt moſt of their Anchors and Cables off of Cape *Bona Eſperanſa*. Soon after this the Vice-Admiral proceeded to *Holland*, with a Squadron to attend the Czar of *Muſcovy*, and, by His Majeſty's particular Commands, accompany'd that Prince, during the time he continued in this Kingdom, and then carried him back to *Holland*.

The Czar of Muſcovy *comes to* England.

I come

I come now to Rear-Admiral *Benbow*, who ſailed from the *Spithead* the 10th of *April* with 7 Third Rates and two Fire-ſhips, and having cruized 27 Days between the Latitudes of 50, and 48 and 30, from 10 to 80 Leagues, from *Scilly*; met with nothing of Note till the third of *May*, and then he gave Chaſe to 5 *French* Men of War, but found himſelf not able to come up with them. The next day he was joined by three Third Rates, one Fourth, and one Fifth, but nothing remarkable happened till the 9th, when he ſaw 9 Ships Weſtward of him, one whereof ſeparated from the reſt, and to her he gave chaſe; the reſt made *Engliſh* Signals, and ſome of them proved to be our Men of War that were bound with the Trade to the *Weſt-Indies*, which, under Command of Captain *Symonds*, had been engaged with four of the *French* King's Ships in the manner following.

Rear-Admiral Benbow is ſent into the Soundings.

Being on the 5th of *May*, 1697, with the *Norwich*, *Chatham*, *Sheerneſs*, *Seaford*, and a Fireſhip, in the Latitude of 49 and 13, about 48 Leagues from *Scilly*, he met four *French* Ships about four in the Morning with *Engliſh* Colours, the biggeſt between 60 and 70 Guns, another of 50, the third 36, and the fourth about 24. They ſtood right down on him,

An Engagement between a Squadron commanded by Captain Symonds and the French.

him, and thereupon he fired a Gun for the *Seaford*, Fireſhip, and his Convoys, that were to Windward, to join him, and at 7 the *French* ſtruck their *Engliſh* Colours, and began to fire upon our Ships. The Fireſhip, by reaſon of her ill ſailing, was taken by the two ſmaller Frigats and their Boats, and the two bigger took the *Seaford*, after they had firſt ſhot down her Main-yard, and then her Main-maſt; but finding her not able to ſwim, they burnt her. The Fight continued very ſmartly for two hours, and then the *French* gave over, but followed our Ships till the 8th, tho' not within Gun-ſhot. That Morning they bore down again, and engaged about three hours, and then left off, and chaſed thoſe Merchant Ships that, at the beginning of the Engagement, were taking the uſual Care for their own Security, and our Frigats were ſo much diſabled, that they were forced to bear up for *Plimouth* to refit.

The Rear-Admiral comes in for want of Proviſions.

The Rear-Admiral endeavoured to intercept the Enemy, but having not above 12 Days Proviſions at ſhort Allowance, he was conſtrained to repair to *Portſmouth* for a Recruit, not being able to reach *Plimouth*, by reaſon he chaſed a Number of Ships to the Eaſtward of that Port, which proved to be

Swedes

Swedes from *Lisbon*. After he had ſupplied himſelf with Proviſions, he received Orders from Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* the 21ſt of *May*, 1697, to proceed again into the *Soundings* with four Third Rates and two Fireſhips; but they were Victualled for no longer than a Month at ſhort Allowance. From *Plimouth* he was to take the *Angleſey* and *Plimouth*, if ready, and to ſee three *Eaſt-India* Ships well into the Sea. The 24th he ſailed from *St. Hellens*, and the 26th in the Morning arrived off of *Plimouth*, where he left Orders for the two Ships beforemention'd to follow him, and took the *Medway* with him. His Cruizing Station was from 10 to 100 Leagues West from *Scilly*, and the general Rendezvous 40 Leagues W. S. W. from thence. He lay till the 5th of *June* between the Latitudes of 50 and 49, about 30 Leagues West of *Scilly*; but being then driven far in, he ſent the *Kent* to *Plimouth*, and the Fireſhip in her Company, the former having ſprung her Fore-maſt, and was ſo leaky that one Pump would hardly free her. However, the Weather being more moderate, he proceeded with the three Third Rates 120 Leagues Weſtward of *Scilly*, and then ſeeing no Ships of the Enemy, he parted with thoſe bound to *India*

Rear-Admiral Benbow *returns into the* Soundings.

dia on the 8th of *June*, in the Latitude of 50, the Wind at N. W; and believing (ſince three Days before the Wind had been Southerly) that the *Virginia* Fleet were gone for Cape *Clear*, or ſome part of the Coaſt of *Ireland*, he ſtood over thither, but ſoon after hearing they were not arrived, ſtretched out to Sea again, and met with a Ship that parted from them in the Latitude of 49° 30′ the 10th of this Month, about 250 Leagues from the Land.

This Intelligence, and the ſhortneſs of his Proviſions, induced him to repair towards *Plimouth*, and in his way he had the good fortune to join the *Virginia* and *Weſt-India* Fleets, and their particular Convoys off of the *Lizard*; and ſoon after meeting Vice-Admiral *Mitchell* off of the *Start*, he was by him directed to repair to *Plimouth* with the Merchant Ships, where he received Orders from Sir *George Rooke* to repair to the Fleet then paſſing Weſtward, and to take care for ſending Eaſtward a Convoy with the Trade; but theſe Orders were contradicted by others from the Lords of the Admiralty, dated the 10th of *July*, and he, in Obedience to them, proceeded to the Squadron before *Dunkirk*, which Capt. *Beaumont* had commanded a conſiderable time before, conſiſting

Rear-Admiral Benbow *brings in the* Virginia *and* Weſt-India *Fleets.*

ſiſting of ſix Third Rates, beſides the *Newark*, two Fourths, one Fifth, and two Fireſhips; but three of thoſe Third Rates were called off to the *Downes* by the Lords of the Admiralty.

Rear-Admiral Benbow arrives off of Dunkirk.

No ſooner was he arrived in the Squadron, but he went in his Boat before the Pier-Heads of *Dunkirk*, but found not one Ship in the Road, tho' he diſcovered 15 or 16 tall Ships within, and one of them with a Flag at the Fore-top-maſt-head.

With Captain *Beaumont* he found two Orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, the one to purſue Monſieur *Du Bart*, and to deſtroy his Ships at any Place whatever, except under Command of the Forts in *Norway* or *Sweden*; and the other to obey His Majeſty's Commands, which the Admiralty directed him to do, in Obedience to the Orders they receiv'd from his Majeſty to that purpoſe.

Some Dutch Ships join ours off of Dunkirk.

The 30th of *July*, 1697, Rear-Admiral *Vandergoes* join'd him with 11 *Dutch* Ships; and it was propos'd that one of the Squadrons ſhould lie ſo as that *Dunkirk* might be South of them, and the other in, or near *Oſtend* Road, that if *Du Bart* ſhould attempt to paſs out, either at the North or Eaſt Chanel, they might the better diſcover him;

but no other Anſwer was made by the *Dutch* Flag, than that his Ships were foul, and not in a Condition to purſue him.

The Force of the French Ships at Dunkirk. The *French* Ships at *Dunkirk* were in all 11, from 52 to 26 Guns, and about the beginning of *Auguſt*, they were all, except Monſieur *Du Bart*'s own, Ship, hawled into the Baſin to clean; ſo that it was judged they were making ready to come out the next Spring Tide: But ſince our Ships, as well as the *Dutch*, were all foul, little Service could be expected from their Chaſing; and it was almoſt next to an Impoſſibility to block up clean Ships at *Dunkirk* with foul ones. Wherefore the Rear-Admiral propos'd that four of his beſt Sailers might be order'd to *Sheerneſs* to clean, and that the others might come to the *Downes*, not only to take in Water, which they very much wanted, but to heel and ſcrub; and this he judged might be done, before the approaching Spring would have given the *French* opportunity of getting over the Bar: But at this very time it was not thought adviſeable, tho' afterwards he received Orders to do it; ſo that at the preſent he only ſent the Ships from time to time to the *Downes* to Water, as they could beſt be ſpared.

The

The 17th of *Auguſt*, 1697, the Rear-Admiral obſerved five clean Ships ready to ſail out of *Dunkirk*, and believing they would puſh through the Eaſt Chanel, he ſhifted his Station, and lay between *Oſtend* and *Newport*, and gave notice thereof to the *Dutch*; but nothing remarkable happened till the 23d, when, at Five in the Morning, he diſcover'd five Sail Eaſtward of him, *Newport* then bearing South, diſtant about five Leagues; upon which he immediately made the Signal for Chaſing, the Wind being at S. W. and the *French* ſteering away N. E. but finding they wronged him very much he brought to at Four in the Afternoon. The ſmaller Ships indeed, namely, the *Dragon*, *Falmouth*, *Romney*, and *Adventure*, kept on till about Six, and took a *Dunkirk* Privateer of 10 Guns and 60 Men, that had been cruizing in the North Seas two Months. *Some of the French Ships get out of Dunkirk.*

After this, the Rear-Admiral endeavoured to regain his Station; but the 25th at Night he was obliged to anchor about five Leagues Weſt from the *Gelloper*, the Wind blowing hard at S. W. There he continued till Eight the next Morning, and then ſaw eight Sail about 5 Leagues off, ſtanding Eaſtward, and two more Southward, the

latter proving to be the *Romney*, and a Flyboat ſhe had retaken; the others he purſued, but could get no Account of them.

Thus ended this Long and Chargeable War; for little or nothing remarkable happen'd afterwards, Peace being proclaim'd the 18th Day of *October*; and the Whole may be briefly ſumm'd up thus; That although the *French* did, at the beginning of the War, get more early to Sea, and with greater Strength than we did, (I mean than what we had in a Body) particularly in the Actions that happen'd at *Bantry* and *Beachy*, when the Fleet was under the Command of the Earl of *Torrington*; yet when our Affairs came to be better ſettled, and that both we and the *Dutch* did take the Neceſſary and timely Care to be early and ſtrong at Sea; the Enemy did not, more than once afterwards during the whole War, dare to look us in the Face; and even that once, was when the Court of *France* thought themſelves ſecure of deſtroying two Squadrons of our Ships on their own Coaſt, Commanded by Sir *Ralph Delavall* and Rear-Admiral *Carter*, before the bigger Ships could poſſibly join them. 'Twas that which occa-

A ſhort Obſervation upon the Whole.

occaſion'd poſitive Orders to Monſieur *Tourville* their Admiral, and it was thoſe Orders which obliged him to Engage, though he found our whole Force to be join'd. But from that very time (as they did the preceding Year) they made it their buſineſs to avoid meeting us at Sea, though they had, the Year before the ſaid Engagement, all the Strength, in a Body, that poſſibly they could equip. Finding therefore that they could not, with the hopes of Succeſs, attempt any thing on our Fleet, they ſuffered themſelves to be inſulted, their Towns to be bombarded, and the *Spaniard* to be relieved by our Forces in the *Mediterranean*, contenting themſelves (as I doubt they will on other like occaſions do) with putting the Crown of *England*, and the States-General, to a very great Expence yearly, in ſetting forth Great Fleets, while they, with their cruizing Frigats and numerous Privateers, made their utmoſt Efforts in the intercepting our Trade, which being not only almoſt as great as in time of Peace, but very rich alſo, was a ſufficient Bait to invite the Equipment of great Numbers of private Ships for ſuch an Enterprize; whereas their little Commerce, eſpecially in theſe Parts of the World, was hardly worth the

the while to look after. In this they were but too ſucceſsful, though I may venture to ſay, that had the Maſters who were intruſted by the Merchants, been more careful to have taken the provided Convoys, or, when under the Protection of ſuch Convoy, more diligent in keeping Company with them, (many Inſtances whereof I am able to give to the contrary) the Enemy would, in a very great Meaſure, have miſs'd of their aim in this Particular.

As for the Loſſes that *England* and *France* ſuſtain'd during the whole War, in the Ships of their Royal Navies, it will have a much better Face on our ſide than that of the Trade; for having collected the ſame, with as much Exactneſs as poſſibly I could, the Reader may find in the following Account, the one and the other compared; by which it will appear, that the Enemy (conſidering the Magnitude of the Ships) were much greater Sufferers than we.

An

An Account of the Ships taken from us by the French, *during the War, and what were burnt, and took from them,* Viz.

Engliſh.

No. of Ships.		Guns each.	Total.
1	of	70	70
1	of	54	54
2	of	48	96
1	of	46	46
3	of	42	126
3	of	36	108
6	of	32	192
2	of	30	60
4	of	24	96
2	of	18	36
2	of	16	32
2	of	12	24
11	of	10	110
5	of	8	40
1	of	6	06
4	of	4	16
Total 50		Total	1112

French.